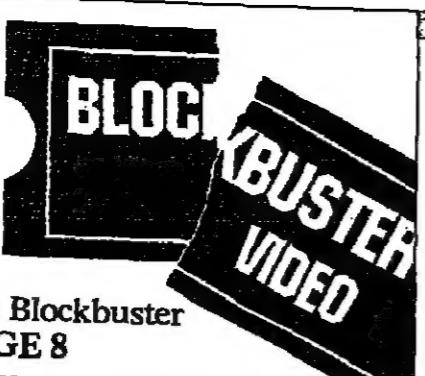


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## Shadow minister says Prince of Wales is not fit to be King



Davies: attacked Prince

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT  
AND JAMES LANDALE

RONALD DAVIES, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, was at the centre of a political storm last night after claiming that the Prince of Wales was unfit to be king.

In a BBC television programme, Mr Davies, MP for Caerphilly, said that the breakdown of the Prince's marriage and his hypocrisy over wildlife disqualifed him from succeeding to the throne.

He accused the Prince of "talking to vegetables" while encouraging

his young sons to "kill animals for fun". He also alluded to the Prince's impending divorce and his admitted adultery with Camilla Parker-Bowles by saying that the future of the monarchy could not be separated from the personal qualities of its heirs.

Mr Davies, who accompanied Tony Blair on a St David's day tour of principally Wales, last night, rushed out a hasty if fulsome apology after his outburst sent tremors through the Labour leader's office. His views were a blow to Mr Blair's new Labour crusade in which he has sought to repudiate much of radical

heritage, including fringe causes such as republicanism, and to present his party as in tune with mainstream middle-class attitudes.

The interview was recorded for BBC Wales Welsh Lobby several days ago, but only transmitted late last night. Mr Blair became aware of Mr Davies's outspoken remarks last night.

In the interview, which became even more controversial after the Princess of Wales' decision on Wednesday to agree to a divorce, Mr Davies said: "You can't divorce from the continuation of the monarchy the individuals who are likely to

succeed to the monarchy. You must focus, for example, on Prince Charles and you must ask yourself the question, is this person fit to continue the tradition of monarchy, and come to the conclusion: no he isn't."

As news of Mr Davies's remarks swept through Westminster, provoking a contemptuous response from Tory MPs and demands for his immediate dismissal from the Shadow Cabinet, the hapless frontbencher issued a detailed apology.

He said: "In an extended TV interview for what was billed by the

BBC as a light-hearted look at the monarchy, and in expressing my disapproval of the Prince of Wales's support for blood sports, I made a number of remarks which could be taken as a comment on his personal morality, and his fitness to be king. In view of Labour's support for the monarchy, and the offence these comments could cause, I withdraw them and apologise."

"I should add that in the rest of the interview, I stressed respect for the Royal Family, and the admiration that exists for the Queen and the Queen Mother in particular. I should further add that the

interview was conducted before the announcement that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce.

"My comments on the effect of the monarchy of the troubles faced by the Prince and Princess of Wales were nonetheless wrong and I will be writing to Prince Charles to apologise."

The Prince left last night for a skiing holiday in the Swiss resort of Klosters after a day of public engagements in Wales on St David's day.

Royal kiss and tell, page 7  
Diary, page 22

## US links visa for Adams to ceasefire call

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, PHILIP WEBSTER IN BANGKOK, AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Clinton Administration last night granted Gerry Adams a visa to enter Washington but immediately put pressure on the Sinn Fein leader by insisting he would not be attending any meetings at the White House unless the IRA declared a ceasefire.

Mr Adams will be allowed to visit the US for St Patrick's Day celebrations on March 17, despite Unionist calls for him to be barred, but he will face tighter restrictions than when he was able to raise funds for Sinn Fein during a visit to Washington last year.

Senior US officials said last night that Mr Adams would be prevented from raising funds and would not meet either President Clinton or Vice-President Al Gore. The restrictions were said by Washington officials to reflect the President's irritation that Sinn Fein had failed to respond to calls to reinstate its ceasefire.

The decision to grant Mr Adams a visa came as John Major and John Bruton joined forces to restate their demand for an imminent cessation of violence — following what British officials agreed was a "difference of emphasis" in the way the two had reacted to the IRA's refusal on Thursday

night to announce an immediate end to violence.

However, the Prime Minister came under attack from Mr Adams in the wake of his condemnation of an IRA statement as a "sick joke". Mr Adams accused Mr Major of making a "knee-jerk" response to an IRA statement that accused Britain of placing preconditions in the way of all-party talks. The Sinn Fein president said that republicans would need reassurance and clarification of the Anglo-Irish communiqué in order to rebuild the peace process.

Mr Major stood by his comments, made in Bangkok on Thursday, in which he described as "pathetic" an earlier IRA statement calling for greater clarification.

Although Mr Bruton backed Mr Major in challenging Sinn Fein to ask the IRA to declare a new ceasefire, the two leaders appeared at odds over the force of the reaction.

Mr Bruton, who is with Mr Major in Thailand, was reportedly yesterday to be surprised by the ferocity of Mr Major's attack.

Irish sources denied any rift between the two, but it was said pointedly, that Mr Major had made his statement while not in possession of all the

Continued on page 2, col 6

facts. "He had assumed that this was the IRA's final word. That appears not to be the case," a senior official said. It was added that "judgments are difficult at 5,000 miles".

Mr Major faced criticism at home when it was claimed that he used the prospect of a breakthrough in the Northern Ireland peace process to help win this week's Commons vote on the Scott report on the sale of arms to Iraq.

John Marshall, the Tory MP for Hendon South, claimed yesterday that John Major told him that his refusal to support the Government would jeopardise the Northern Ireland peace process.

He said that the Prime Minister had made clear that Ulster Unionists were "holding a pistol to his head", adding that defeat for the Government last Monday would delay plans to bring about all-party talks.

Mr Marshall's account provoked angry accusations from Labour that the Prime Minister had used the prospect of a date for all-party talks to help to avert a damaging Commons defeat.

Mr Marshall met Mr Major twice in the three hours before the vote, which the Government won by a majority of

Major's attack.

Doctors treating Mrs Dyer, who yesterday returned to her home in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, described her recovery and successful birth as "nothing short of miraculous". While in labour, Mrs Dyer

### Bacon not artist of 'self-portrait'

The attribution of a painting to Francis Bacon is questioned in a letter to *The Times* today from Richard Stone, the writer on 20th-century art.

He points out that the so-called self-portrait, dated to around 1930, carries a Winsor & Newton label on the reverse of the "Rathbone" canvas board. He says that size of board did not exist then and it is inconceivable that the picture could have been painted by Bacon after his known works of 1933-36. Page 23

### Russia expels British 'spy' for second time

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND BILL FROST

A BRITISH businessman accused of spying was yesterday barred from Russia for the second time in seven years. Moscow alleged that Nigel Shakespear had been engaged in "activities incompatible with his status", the diplomats' term for espionage.

The Russian Foreign Ministry told the British Embassy in Moscow that Mr Shakespear, a security consultant, was no longer welcome and that his visa had been revoked. He was ordered out of the country for what was described as suspicious behaviour.

Mr Shakespear, 46, who was last night with his wife's family in Highgate, north London, was said to be very upset by his expulsion. He strenuously denied spying and insisted that he had no idea why the Russians had forced him to board a London flight after he returned to Moscow from a business trip to Kazakhstan two weeks ago. "The charge is totally unjustified," he said, adding: "I am not going to speculate on why I was expelled ... I thought I was off their blacklist ... but

Continued on page 2, col 3

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### British Museum piazza grant

The British Museum was awarded £30 million by the Millennium Commission to transform the two-acre courtyard enclosing its Round Reading Room into an indoor piazza with restaurants and cafés that will be open until late evening.

Private benefactors have pledged £21 million towards the £72 million scheme, with £4 million coming from the Sainsbury family. The over-crowded museum's six million visitors a year make it the most visited of its type in the world. Page 4

### Police start CS spray patrols

Police officers in England and Wales began patrolling with CS sprays despite warnings of possible health hazards to the public and potential claims for damages.

More than 2,000 officers in 16 forces, including the Metropolitan Police, were issued with the canisters, which can incapacitate an assailant within seconds. They will be on trial for six months. Page 5

### Customs using robot subs to find drugs

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

CUSTOMS officers are deploying robot submarines to stay a step ahead of international drug cartels.

Three robots, codenamed Phantom, are being secretly used at British ports including Southampton and Liverpool, to detect packets of cocaine, heroin and other drugs welded to hulls of ships.

Drug smugglers, especially from South America, have been increasingly using cargo vessels to ship drugs into European ports, including Britain. Captains of the vessels have become the innocent players in the worldwide narcotics trade, with the contraband welded to parts of the hull under the waterline by divers working for South American drug cartels. When the ships arrive at British ports, the packets are removed by divers working for the drug smugglers.

Doug Huntington, of Maritime Underwater Technology in Windermere, Cumbria, whose company supplied Customs with the robot vehicles, said yesterday: "Officers are using them to investigate sus-

picious ships from Panama, Colombia and the Caribbean."

About 50 Colombian coal ships call every year at Liverpool alone, he said. "They are all suspect ships. The ship's captains have no idea what has been attached."

The underwater probes, details of which will be disclosed next week at Oceanography International in Brighton, are operated by remote control from a Customs van at the dock. Fitted with underwater cameras and lighting systems, the Phantoms relay pictures back to the van where officers view them on a television screen. Mr Huntington said the favourite spots where drug packets are welded lie just above the rudder.

Customs are operating three Phantoms. The machines, weighing 70lb, are about the size of a dustbin.

Many British ports are polluted they can pose a risk to divers. Moreover, robots can work all day.

"I know Customs and Excise have had some successes with the Phantoms," Mr Huntington added.

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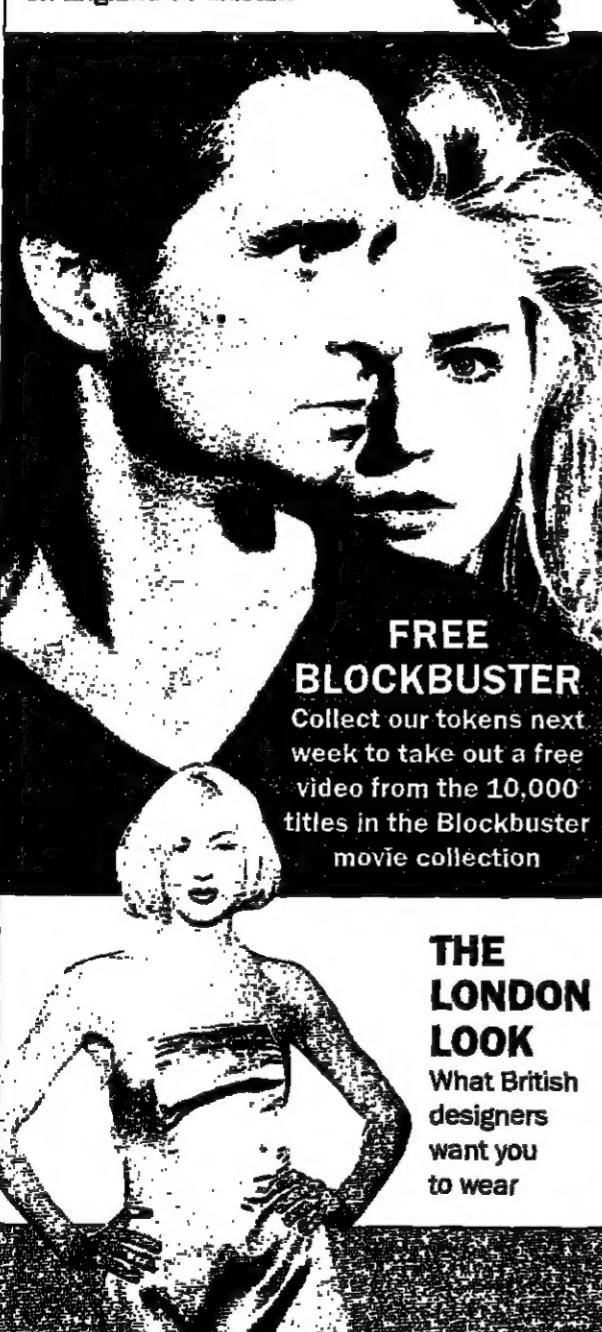


## THE MATCH OF THE SEASON

Rob Hughes  
sets the scene

David Miller on rugby  
and an ancient rivalry

Alan Lee in Karachi  
on England v Pakistan



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# Mackay refuses to yield over pensions

BY ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Lord Chancellor is facing a battle in the Commons over his refusal to accept the principle of splitting pensions on divorce. A formidable cross-party alliance of women MPs was furious at Lord Mackay of Clashfern's decision yesterday not to back the Lords amendment on the issue.

Peers voted by a majority of 21 on Thursday to change the Family Law Bill so that women could have an immediate share of their husbands' pensions when they divorced. But Lord Mackay said the move would be "quite impossible to bring in quickly".

Government sources appeared to be paving the way for a climbdown yesterday morning. But Lord Mackay, architect of the Bill, later made clear that he was likely to try to overturn the defeat when the Bill comes to the Com-

**COSTS COULD BE OFFSET BY SAVINGS ON SOCIAL SECURITY SPENDING**

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE National Association of Pension Funds has attacked the Government's claim that splitting pensions on divorce, rather than at retirement, will cost £1.3 billion. The association says that in January, in answer to a parliamentary question, the Government said the cost would be offset by savings in social security and legal aid spending.

Splitting pensions at divorce could

cause a loss of revenue for the Exchequer by allowing one spouse to pay income tax at a lower rate, but the savings on social security are likely to be considerable. At present 1.5 million women rely on the State alone to support them in retirement, compared with 250,000 men.

Sallie Quin, of Fairshares, a group campaigning on behalf of divorced women, said: "Older women who traditionally are more dependent on their husbands will benefit most from a

change in rules allowing pensions to be split at the moment of divorce."

As well as fearing the loss of revenue, the Government believed to be reluctant to change the law because of the effect on non-contributory pension funds, such as those run by the Civil Service and the National Health Service. If pension-splitting is approved, divorced spouses could have the right to transfer large sums from these schemes before funds have been built up.

who spearheaded the Lords defeat, said the costs would be negligible and most technical problems had been sorted out already. "The Government has already had talks with the industry who are happy on almost every count. The Bill wouldn't come into force for another two years so any remaining bumps have got time to be smoothed out now," she said.

The Government has calculated its figures on the premise that women would be able to take their pensions out of unfunded public-sector schemes and the Treasury would lose out because tax benefits would be doubled at divorce. "That is rubbish. Under our proposals the new individual pensions would have to stay with the schemes. Also by 2000 the loss of tax revenue would be offset by savings on income support."

Anne Ashworth, page 33

## Briton is expelled by Russia

Continued from page 1  
the Russian authorities and  
have himself removed from  
the Moscow Foreign Ministry's  
blacklist.

Marrion with four children,  
Mr Shakespear returned to  
Moscow in 1993 when he  
joined Price Waterhouse, the  
accountants. He resigned at  
the end of last year and joined  
Gorodel, a joint British-Russian  
company specialising in  
security services and risk  
management.

Moscow sources indicated  
yesterday that such firms often  
employed former KGB officers  
to advise foreigners on the  
threat posed to staff by the  
increasingly powerful Russian  
mafia and other criminal  
groups. Old tensions may  
have marked Mr Shakespear  
for victimisation.

It was not immediately clear  
last night if Mr Shakespear's  
expulsion was prompted by  
genuine Russian concern that  
a former British military attache  
was working for a security  
company or if the move was  
part of a broader espionage  
game.



Businessman Nigel Shakespear in London last night

## Adams is granted US visa

Continued from page 1  
one. He made his decision to  
back the Government 20 minutes  
before the vote. "He said if he lost the vote this would  
damage the peace process in  
Northern Ireland and developments  
he hoped to bring to fruition would be delayed." Mr Marshall said in the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*.

Donald Dewar, Labour's  
Chief Whip, said yesterday that  
Mr Marshall's report of  
the meetings was "remarkable.  
I am saddened that the  
tragic and delicate situation in  
Northern Ireland should be  
used to force a reluctant  
Conservative MP to vote  
against his judgment on an  
unrelated matter."

Mr Dewar said that Mr  
Marshall's account meant  
that the Prime Minister's  
assurance that no deals had  
been done "must now be  
seriously questioned."

Mr Adams's comments indicated  
that there is little chance that Sinn Fein will call  
on the IRA to restore its  
ceasefire in the short term.

## Terrorist condemns ending of ceasefire

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING IRA terrorist  
has launched scathing attack  
on the IRA's decision to  
end its ceasefire. Joe O'Connell,  
a member of the Balcombe Street gang,  
described the resumption of  
IRA violence as "the most  
stupid, blinkered and ill-conceived  
decision ever made by a  
revolutionary body".

O'Connell, 44, who has  
served 21 years of a 30-year  
sentence for his part in the  
IRA bombing campaign in  
England in 1974, called on all  
republicans to press for an  
immediate restoration of the  
ceasefire.

In a letter to the Sinn Fein  
newspaper, *Republican News*,  
he said that he did not believe  
the IRA's decision could be  
justified after 18 months of  
peace.

O'Connell, who is serving  
his sentence at Full Sutton jail  
near York, wrote: "The broad  
nationalist consensus that has  
evolved as a result of the IRA  
ceasefire is the most positive  
development of it ... This  
is well worth bearing in mind  
and giving the chance to bring  
the results that are hoped for."

O'Connell's letter was one of  
a number of letters published  
by the newspaper which have  
criticised the resumption of  
IRA violence.

## Council tax rises well above inflation

BY IAN MURRAY  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE average council tax bill  
will rise by more than double  
the present 2.9 per cent inflation  
rate, according to a survey of  
over 300 authorities that have  
now fixed their budgets.

Although the average in-

crease will be around 6.1 per  
cent, there are huge variations  
between different authorities.  
There are now so many anomalies  
that local authority associations  
believe the Government's system of  
allocating grants is becoming  
unworkable.

The average increase is  
below the 8 per cent level  
predicted last year by William  
Waldegrave, Chief Secretary  
to the Treasury, but it means  
that most householders will  
have to find about another 70p  
a week. Despite paying more,  
however, most areas will see a  
reduction in services as coun-

cils everywhere have cut back  
staff in order to stay inside  
their Government imposed  
spending limit.

Around £400 million worth  
of savings have been made,  
largely through job cuts. Even  
with cuts Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex have  
set budgets above the limit  
and will try to persuade the  
Government that they must  
have the extra money. Every  
other county is to spend up to  
its limit.

## Police arrest 19 at Newbury protest

Police arrested 19 demonstrators on the route of the Newbury bypass in Berkshire yesterday as protesters and bailiffs played a violent and dangerous aerial ballet as huge platform cranes moved in to remove protesters from their tree-top homes. After 17 hours over two days only six demonstrators, about a third, have been removed from the tree-tops. Nick Blandy, the under-sheriff of Berkshire who is charged with carrying out the High Court orders compelling the evictions, conceded the operation was potentially dangerous. But he added: "If there is a misadventure then the protesters will be the authors of their own misfortune."

## Underwear man freed

A father of five who was jailed for attacking a man who had stolen underwear from his washing line was freed on bail yesterday pending an appeal. Gary Timms, 32, was jailed for four months on Thursday, while the thief was let off with a caution. Judge Daniel Rodwell, QC, sitting at Luton Crown Court, granted Timms bail. The appeal against the sentence is expected to be heard next week.

## Race abuse PC resigns

A police constable was asked to resign after allegations that he made offensive racist comments while off-duty in a pub. Police said yesterday, PC Dale Holden was drinking in a public house in Loughborough when the remarks were allegedly made. A member of the public overheard the comments and reported the officer and a disciplinary hearing was held. The officer is planning to appeal.

## Exporter convicted

A livestock exporter was convicted yesterday of dangerous driving after allegations that he deliberately drove into a group of protesters outside the Essex port of Brightlingsea. Roger Mills, 54, of Framlington, Suffolk, was fined £1,000 and disqualified from driving for 12 months by Harwich magistrates. Mills denied the charge and sentence was suspended pending his appeal to the Crown Court.

## Hostages criticise Lang

John McCarthy and Brian Keenan today criticise ministers for citing the fate of the two former Middle East hostages as justification for not telling Parliament about arms-related sales to Iraq. In a letter to *The Times* they describe television remarks by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, in the wake of the Scott report as "offensive, misleading, and disingenuous".

## Offer accepted

Steve Wright, 37, a producer for Yorkshire Television who refused to answer a leap year proposal made on air by Debbie Lindley, 22, a weather girl, accepted the offer yesterday morning on GMTV when he handed her a ring.

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Ons

## Verdict of misadventure recorded

# Family to sue over death of teenager after operation

By KATE ALDERSON

THE parents of a teenager who died during a routine cosmetic operation to have her ears pinned back are to sue the hospital where their daughter died after a coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure yesterday. They have been granted legal aid.

Janine Connor, 14, was undergoing surgery at Withington Hospital, Manchester, when she suffered a cardiac arrest. The inquest at Swinton, Salford, heard how ten doctors in the operating theatre were unable to use equipment which could have saved her because it was so old that they had not been trained to use it.

Janine's mother, Margaret Usher, 46, said after the verdict: "I want to know how Janine died. I feel as if we haven't had any answers today. I think it is horrendous that such old equipment was in use. It should be withdrawn from all hospitals."

Marin Coppel, the coroner, told the hearing: "Janine went for the operation she requested and as a direct result of that she died. I will therefore record a verdict of death by misadventure."

At the hearing, evidence was given that Janine, from Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater

Manchester, opted for a general anaesthetic although she had originally intended to have a local anaesthetic.

An anaesthetist noticed that her face was swelling at the end of the operation and she suffered a cardiac arrest. Doctors said gas was not escaping from her body after being pumped in by the ventilator and so her heart was not able to pump properly.

When doctors tried to give the teenager electric shocks from two 25-year-old defibrillator machines they were unable to get them to discharge because they did not know that at least 50s of pressure had to be applied to the paddles on her chest.

Almost ten minutes were lost before a third defibrillator, which the doctors could work, arrived. Eventually, doctors had to cut open Janine's chest and manually massage her heart to get it beating normally. She never regained consciousness and died six days later in January last year at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Mr Coppel said the 20-year-old ventilator machine used on Janine was regarded as "a good solid work horse" and it remained a mystery as to what

had gone wrong to cause Janine's breathing problem.

He said that very few medical people would have been trained in the use of defibrillators when the type available were manufactured. "None of them knew about the modus operandi," he said. "There was a set of written instruction nearby. I suppose, under pressure, one doesn't look to see something in writing."

The delay in giving Janine defibrillator shocks "cannot have helped and should not have occurred". He added that the medical team were competent and made their best efforts to save Janine and had almost succeeded.

Neil Kinsella, the family's solicitor, said he would pursue a civil claim for negligence against the hospital trust.

South Manchester Hospital NHS Trust issued a statement after the verdict expressing sympathy for the family. "It is regrettable that there was some unfamiliarity with the use of the first two defibrillators but there was no evidence that this contributed to the death of the patient," it said, adding that the old defibrillators were no longer in use at either Withington or Wythenshawe hospital.



Taking the high road: the duke's body borne on a gun carriage pulled by 12 members of the Atholl Highlanders to its final resting place

## Private army guards duke on last march

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Duke of Atholl, Britain's only bachelor duke, was given the Highland equivalent of a state funeral yesterday when he was buried in the grounds of his Perthshire family seat accompanied by the ceremony and ritual of Europe's last private army.

Draped in his clan tartan of Murray of Atholl, the duke's body was borne on a gun carriage pulled by 12 members of the Atholl Highlanders to its final resting place in the family burial plot in the grounds of Blair Castle, his ancestral home at Blair

handed them over to a charitable trust. Mr Murray, 67, a retired surveyor who has spent his life in South Africa, told *The Times* he had no desire to inherit the estate, did not want to live in Scotland, and had no intention of using the title of 11th Duke of Atholl.

Some 250 family, friends and estate workers attended his funeral service in the ballroom of the white-walled castle, one of Perthshire's major tourist attractions. A conspicuous absence among the mourners was John Murray, the duke's South African third cousin who has reluctantly inherited the title in the absence of any children of the duke, but who has been dispossessed of the castle and its 70,000 acres since the late duke

Barbour, a family friend who fought with the duke's father when he was killed in action in Italy in 1945, said of the late duke: "He was a man of sharp intelligence, a brilliant bridge player, a lover of the hills of Atholl, of walking and stalking and shooting, a financier and effective manager, but above all, despite his shyness, a friend to many people."

Praising his revival of his private army, Mr Barbour recalled how the duke once told Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP: "When I kick the bucket, I suppose the only thing people will remember is my private army."

## Neighbour must get rid of pig and pay £35,000

By KATE ALDERSON

A MAN who thrust a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig into a feud with his neighbours was last night dealt a £35,000 blow by a judge.

Paul Telford, 35, a company director, was given two months to get rid of Flossie the pig, and told to pay £15,600 damages to Frank and Mary Bray and their £20,000 legal costs.

Mr Bray, 62, claimed his life was made a misery when Mr Telford became his neighbour in Tynemouth six years ago. During a four-day hearing at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court Mr Telford began his campaign against them by playing tape-recordings of the Brays' dog barking very loudly as a protest against the noise it made.

He was also alleged to have revved his cars' engines, played with his jet ski at any time of the day or night and turned on a compressor when he left the house.

Flossie became Mr Telford's garden pet in 1991 and the court heard the pig was noisy, smelly, attracted flies and left droppings all over the garden. The Brays eventually took their neighbour to court to seek damages and an injunction to stop him being a nuisance.

Mr Telford, a bachelor who owns a computer company, claimed the barking of the Brays' dog had driven him mad and he simply wanted his neighbours to understand the noise it made. He told the court that Mr Bray was a cantankerous busy-body and likened him to Victor Meldrew in the television series *One Foot in the Grave*.

Julian Hallom, the recorder, said Mr Telford's actions had amounted to nuisance over the past six years. He added: "I want them (the Brays) to be able to enjoy their property in peace and quiet. They should be allowed to sleep at night."

After the hearing Mr Telford said he felt heartbroken at losing his pig. "I will miss Flossie so much, she has been a good friend."

## Mother who lied to win bail for husband is jailed

By BILL FROST

A MOTHER who lied to police to win her husband's freedom was herself jailed for three months at the Old Bailey yesterday.

The judge told Nora Tracey, 54, that he was forced to jail her, as an example to her husband Patrick, who is still at large. The court was told that the couple ran a thriving hotel and restaurant business but were driven to the edge of bankruptcy by the recession.

Recorder Andrew Patience, QC, told Mrs Tracey: "It gives me absolutely no pleasure to see you standing in the dock. I greatly admire you for what you and your family have achieved and for what you've done yourself in bringing up three children. You have achieved a great deal in your work and are spoken of highly by those who know you. But I have to have in mind persons in the position of your husband who might be tempted to act in this way. The temptation in the future might be greater if such persons think others like yourself might escape the consequences."

Mrs Tracey's three children, now in their 20s, were too upset to comment outside court but indicated that an appeal was being considered.

## BA jumbo jet returns with special delivery

By JOANNA BALE

A British Airways jumbo jet which left Delhi with 345 passengers returned with 346 when the aircraft was forced to turn back after a woman gave birth.

Hildegard Meyer, from Switzerland, had complained of a stomach ache to a steward four hours after take-off, but quickly realised she was going into labour.

A male Indian doctor and female gynaecologist came forward after an appeal by the captain, and as the plane flew at 30,000 ft Ms Meyer was taken to the first class deck where a makeshift

delivery room was set up.

The captain headed back to Delhi while stewardesses Leah Clay and Carole Hayter helped with the delivery. Ms Meyer gave birth to a healthy 6lb 6oz boy as the wheels of the plane touched down again at Delhi.

A BA spokeswoman said: "A huge cheer went up among the passengers when the captain announced the birth."

BA said it was too early to say if the woman could be penalised for travelling after the 36-week limit for pregnant women. "At the moment we are just happy that mother and baby are doing well."

## Me Phil Collins, you Tarzan

THE rock singer Phil Collins is to write the songs for Walt Disney's latest big-budget cartoon, it was confirmed yesterday. *Tarzan*, due for release in 1998, will feature at least six songs by the Genesis drummer, who won a Grammy in 1984 for the title song of the film *Against All Odds*.

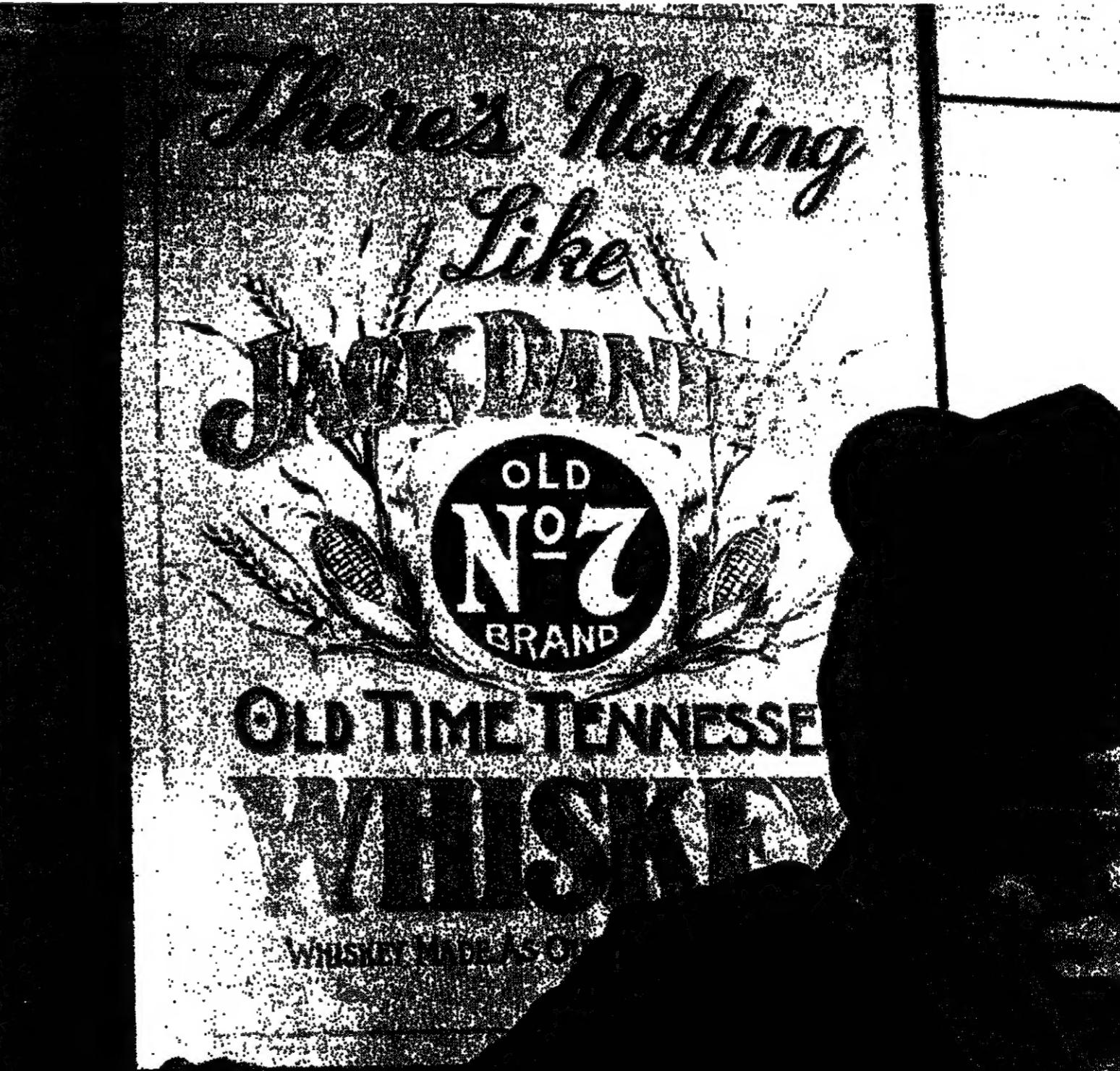
*Tarzan* is in pre-production and Disney has not chosen any actors for the roles of Tarzan or Jane. Peter Schneider, president of Walt Disney feature animation, said he thought that Collins would bring "something very

special to the creative process. He is one of the greatest songwriters of our time and we have long admired his ability to capture emotion and humour in his work."

Collins, 44, who was recently divorced from his American wife, Jill, lives in a rented chalet in Hermance, near Geneva. He has won six Grammy awards and sold an estimated 60 million albums. His most recent album was *Both Sides*, released in 1993. He has written songs for the films *White Knight* and *Buster*, in which he starred.



Collins will write at least six songs for film



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

# Lottery and donors to transform museum

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Museum was yesterday awarded £20 million by the Millennium Commission to transform the two courtyards encircling its Round Reading Room into an indoor piazza with restaurants and cafés that will be open until late evening.

A further £6 million has been given by Walter Annenberg, the former American ambassador to Britain, and £4 million by the Sainsbury family. They are among private benefactors who have been so impressed by the £72 million scheme that they have pledged £21 million towards it. Several other seven-figure gifts are at an advanced state of negotiation. The Millennium Commission's money comes from the National Lottery.

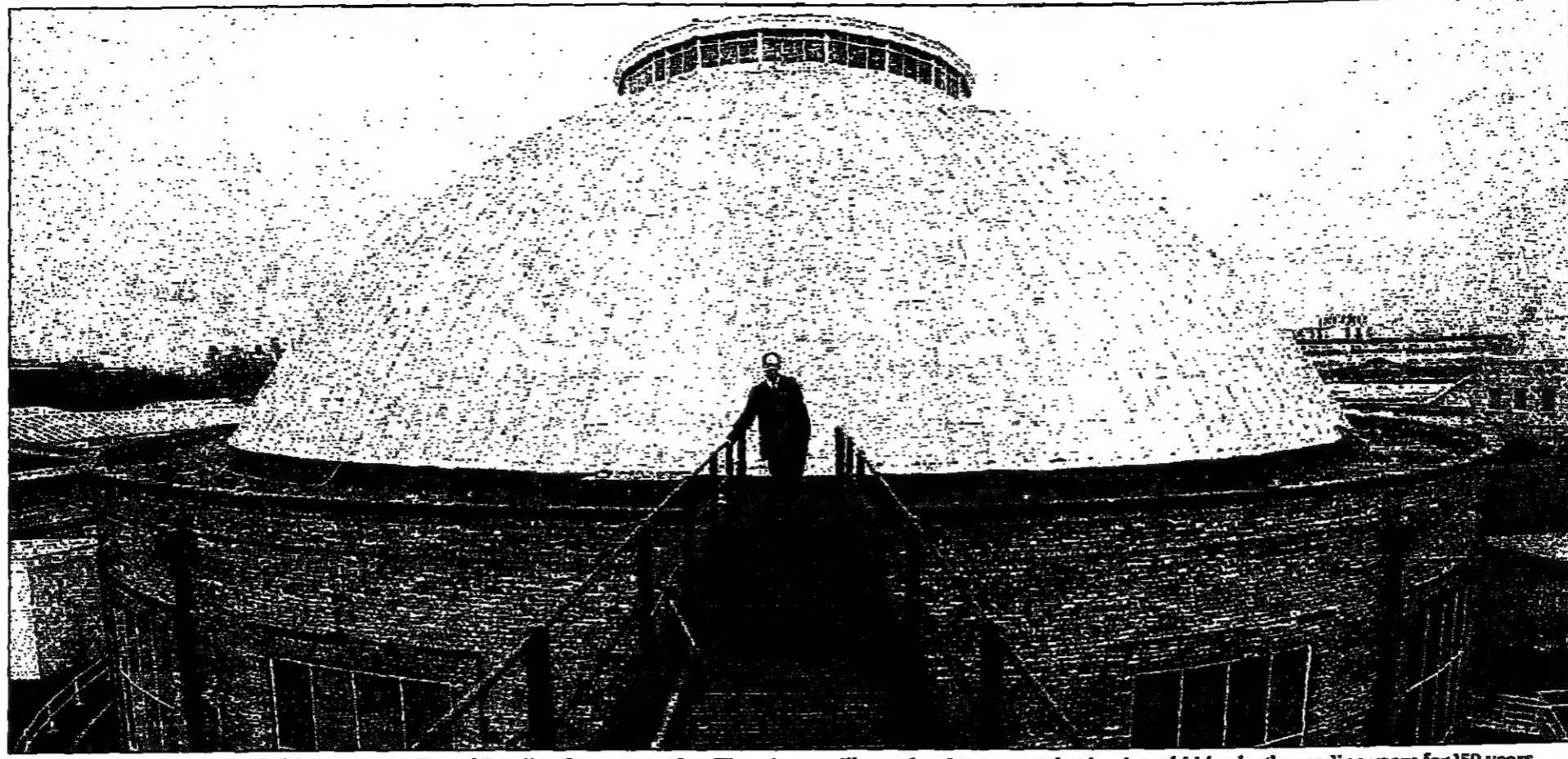
Sir Claus Moser, a trustee of the museum and chairman of its development trust, said that inflation was likely to push the target beyond £72 million. Despite fierce competition from other arts institutions seeking to match lottery funding, he was confident of meeting the target: "We have a long way to go but a few years in which to do it. Luckily, there are a number of people in the world who think the British Museum is the greatest thing."

A neo-classical building originally intended for 50,000-100,000 visitors a year will be transformed to cater for the six million people who come annually in the 1990s. The Temple of Antiquities, which boasts 6½ million objects, is one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions.

The museum is the most visited of its kind in the world: the 4.9 million annual visitors to the Metropolitan in New York and the 4.7 million to the Louvre in Paris pale against its 6.1 million.

Dr Robert Anderson, the director, said that the museum was desperate for more space. The scheme would enable it to deal with major overcrowding. Among the areas to be increased is that for educational activities. Dr Anderson said that school parties came in vast numbers: "They didn't come in the 1980s, as far as we know."

The complex, described as London's answer to the Pyramids at the Louvre, will enhance the townscape. Under designs being prepared by Sir Norman Foster and Partners, the inner court, concealed



Dr Anderson on the roof of the museum's Round Reading Room yesterday. The scheme will reveal an inner court that has been hidden by the reading room for 150 years

since the Round Reading Room was constructed at its centre, will be revealed for the first time in 150 years. Spencer Grey, of Sir Norman's practice, said that before the reading room was constructed visitors were able to wander through the courtyard before entering the galleries.

Dr Anderson said that Mr Annenberg and his wife Leonore had long been friends of Britain. They contribute large sums in the United States but have also been generous here, notably to St Paul's Cathedral and the National Gallery. The donation will go towards an information centre within the reading room.

The African galleries within the ethnographic section will be named after the Sainsburys. Four members of the family are involved in the funding: Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, David Sainsbury, the chairman of the supermarket chain, and his wife Susan.

The development programme is intended to mark the museum's 250th anniversary in 2003. Work is due to start in February 1998 after the British Library has moved the books to its new premises in St Pancras and must be completed by the end of 2000.

## Courtyard splendour is revived

THE Norman Foster scheme will re-open the magnificent great courtyard of the British Museum, which has been unseen for 150 years. Preserved in the centre will be the great round Reading Room, freed from the bookstack blocks at present cluttering the courtyard. The outside of the rotunda will be re-clad in stone and the distinctive twin-arched windows open to view on the outside.

The glass-roofed courtyard is intended as a major public concourse to be open from 8.30am to 10pm. It is proposed as the centrepiece of a new London walk from St Pancras Station to Covent Garden.

The latest design is simpler and bolder than earlier versions. The courtyard is much more open and the staircases around the rotunda have been set back to reveal its splendour.

## Philanthropists allied by a love of art

By DALYA ALBERGE

THE multimillion-pound donations to the British Museum have come from some of the most prominent arts patrons. The philanthropy of Walter Annenberg, an American Ambassador to Britain during the Nixon Administration, is legendary: he has been described as one of the most generous private citizens in history.

The Sainsburys, who in 1993 overtook the House of Windsor as Britain's richest family with a total fortune of £1.9 billion, have distinguished themselves among Britain's most generous donors. They are best known for their support for the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing, and are thought to give up to £30 million a year.

Mr Annenberg, 87, made his fortune from publishing, television and radio stations. In 1991 he promised his art collection, one of the finest in the world, to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, of which he is a trustee. More than 50 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works, worth \$1 billion (£670 million),

will go to the museum after his death. The collection includes masterpieces by Degas, Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh.

A Japanese corporation offered \$1 billion to buy them. Mr Annenberg replied: "I appreciate your offer, but you are asking me to sell members of my family."

Museums in Los Angeles, Washington and Philadelphia mounted a discreet campaign for at least part of the collection. But Mr Annenberg said: "It is my intention that all my paintings should go to the

Metropolitan. I love them with a passion and I want them to stay together when I'm gone."

In 1993 he bought Van Gogh's *Wheat Field with Cypresses* for £37 million and donated it to the Met.

Mr Annenberg's charitable giving goes beyond the arts: he co-founded the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Manhattan and endowed the University of Pennsylvania with a school of journalism.

He served as Ambassador to Britain between 1969 and 1974. In 1976 the Queen



awarded him an honorary knighthood, partly as a result of his philanthropic efforts, including a large contribution to the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral. In 1988 he gave \$5 million to the National

Gallery.

Generous donors in the Sainsbury family include David Sainsbury, great-grandson of the couple who founded the retail chain with a dairy shop in Drury Lane 125 years ago. Mr Sainsbury, chairman of the company, has been described as one of the richest men in the country. Henry Moore was his godfather, and he grew up in a house full of art treasures. His philanthropy extends beyond the arts to education, mental health and the Third World. Lord Owen has called him "one of the most imaginative philanthropists we are likely to see this century" because he "allows the seeds to germinate and grow".

A large donation from his parents, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, enabled the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts to be established at East Anglia University.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Death-crash sentences increased

The Lord Chief Justice yesterday signalled a tough new attitude to death-crash drivers when he ruled in the High Court that the four-and-a-half-year sentence on Paul Daves, 21, of Hartlepool, who ran over and killed a 70-year-old man while trying to steal his car, was "unduly lenient". He was ordered to serve six years.

The court then increased from three to five years the sentence of Anthony Jackson, 24, of Bradford, who had killed a teacher while driving at speed the wrong way down a one-way street. The original sentences in both cases had caused anger among relatives and the local communities.

### Pescado charge

Joseph O'Connor, being tried on six manslaughter charges arising from the sinking of the trawler *Pescado*, has been charged with an additional manslaughter charge in relation to life-saving equipment. He denies all charges.

### Venables ruling

Judgment has been reserved until next week in a High Court action by Terry Venables, England football coach, against a former business partner from whom he is trying to reclaim £144,359 after a failed pub venture.

### On a plate

Car numberplate NICKY was bought for £71,000 yesterday as 50 plates fetched £1.3 million at a Brooks auction in London. 1 GW went for £69,800 and an anonymous buyer phoned home before spending £16,900 on 1 ET.

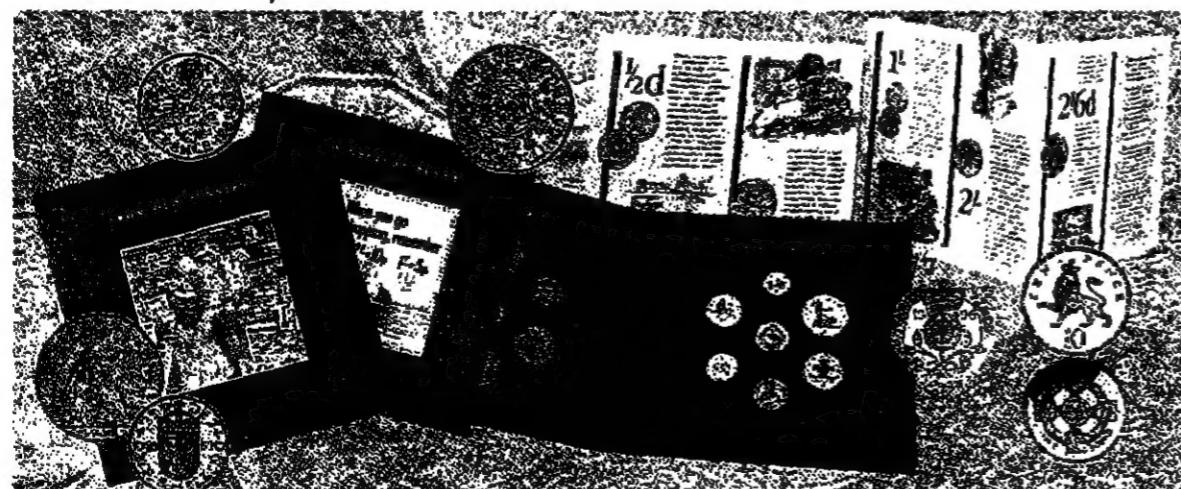
### Man shot dead

A 33-year-old man died in hospital early yesterday after he was shot outside a fish and chip shop in Winslow Green, Birmingham. Bystanders heard four shots and saw a car speed away, leaving the man lying in the street.

### Shopping shock

The wheels on 250 shopping trolleys at a supermarket in Windermere, Cumbria, had to be changed because customers were receiving electric shocks. The complaints started after the store had a new floor covering fitted.

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# Mother of snooker ace cleared of porn plot charges

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE MOTHER of the snooker ace Ronnie O'Sullivan was cleared of dealing in allegedly obscene magazines and videos yesterday.

Maria O'Sullivan, 39, was said to have received a string of detailed instructions issued by her convicted murderer husband Ronald from his prison cell to keep the "thriving" business empire afloat.

The lucrative operation, centred on Soho in London, was said to have raked in hundreds of thousands of pounds of material depicting a variety of sexual acts.

The mother of two, who lives in a £750,000 mansion in Chigwell, Essex, pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to have obscene articles for publication for gain at the start of a trial at Southwark Crown Court eight weeks ago.

Several weeks into the hearing, Mrs O'Sullivan, who was on trial with her 40-year-old husband and her brother-in-law Paul, 31, and several others, was discharged from the proceedings after a report in *The Sun* newspaper was said to have breached a Contempt of Court Act order.

Philip Singer, QC, for the prosecution, told the court yesterday that as all her co-defendants had been cleared of the charge, the Crown felt it "had little alternative" but to offer no evidence.

Judge Cotran then told a

smiling Mrs O'Sullivan that he would be entering a formal not guilty verdict against her.

During the trial, Mrs O'Sullivan was released from a 12-month prison sentence imposed at the Old Bailey last year for £100,000 VAT evasion in connection with the business.

Her co-defendants told the court in evidence, or through counsel, that the magazines and videos the company dealt in were not obscene, and if they were, it did not know details of the contents.

The judge banned publication about the case until the trial yesterday.

For the second half of last year and the beginning of this, Ronnie O'Sullivan, who was just 20 in February, was battling to cope with the fact that both his parents were behind bars. Mr O'Sullivan, ranked world number three and the youngest player ever to qualify for the world championships, was said to have been in "complete disarray".

Since the start of the season last year Mr O'Sullivan, who is nicknamed The Rocket and was tipped to oust Stephen Hendry as world number one, has been knocked out of each of the seven world ranking tournaments in which he has played. Having to look after his younger sister added to the former United Kingdom champion's burden. Clive

"This seems to me an act of gross incompetence on his part," said the judge.

The judge agreed it was not an intentional contempt.

## Woman in baby death case must face court

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

CAROLINE BEALE, the Briton accused of murdering her baby in New York and trying to smuggle its body on to an airliner, must go back to court on Monday as lawyers continue to argue over a plea bargain that would allow her to return to Britain.

Judge Robert Hanophy told a brief hearing yesterday that the prosecution and defence would continue discussions over the weekend. The District Attorney wants Ms Beale to return to jail as part of a plea bargain that would reduce her charge from murder to manslaughter. Her lawyer insists that she should be allowed to return to Britain, having already served eight months on remand.

Ms Beale's father, Peter, said yesterday that the order for her to return to court was legal torture. "Enough is enough," he said. "Caroline does feel pain, she has been tortured. As far as we are concerned, this is an atrocity."

Ms Beale, 32, of Chingford, east London, was arrested 18 months ago as she tried to board a flight from New York to London with the corpse of her newborn baby wrapped in a plastic bag inside her rucksack. The baby was born less than 24 hours earlier in a hotel room in Manhattan.

Michael Dowd, her lawyer, said: "We are at the point where we either go forward to trial or reach an agreement and any agreement must involve her going home."



Caroline Beale leaving the Supreme Court in New York with her father yesterday

## Hewitt seeks millions for royal kiss-and-tell interview

By JOANNA BALE



Hewitt: five-year affair with Princess of Wales

JAMES HEWITT is asking up to £4 million for a filmed interview in which he discloses details of his love affair with the Princess of Wales. The former cavalry officer, who had a five-year relationship with the Princess, is said to talk frankly about how he confided in her about her marriage problems and how they became lovers.

Anna Pasternak, who wrote the book *Princess In Love*, a sugary account of the affair, and Henry Cole, a film director, are in secret negotiations with television companies interested in buying the

worldwide rights. A film industry source said: "They are asking millions. It is being presented as a package in which Hewitt retains full editorial control and that package could cost £4 million but I am sure someone will buy it."

Mr Cole, whose 1994 film *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, starring Elizabeth Hurley as a heroin addict, was panned by critics, was also involved in negotiating Miss Pasternak's deal with the American CBS network to make a television film of her book, which starts shooting this month.

The Hewitt interview was recorded by the award-winning former ITN cameraman Sebastian Rich, who

made a fly-on-the-wall ITV documentary about the Prince and Princess of Wales ten years ago, called *In Private, In Public*. Mr Rich, who has worked as a freelance since leaving ITN in 1993, filmed Mr Hewitt, his home in Devon, answering 130 questions drawn up by Miss Pasternak.

British and US television networks yesterday expressed interest in the footage, its appeal heightened by the news of the royal divorce, but none would admit to negotiating a deal.

The film gives details of how Mr Hewitt taught Princes William and Harry to ride and how the affair was conducted at Kensington Palace and

his home. It is expected to be cut to an hour of footage mirroring the Princess's *Panorama* interview last year, in which she confessed to an affair with Mr Hewitt.

Mr Hewitt, 37, was persuaded to make the documentary by Miss Pasternak. He was branded a cad for co-operating with her book.

He gave away nothing about the interview when he emerged briefly to drive away from his home yesterday in the village of Bratton.

The London office of CBS News, the American network, said: "There was a scramble for Diana's *Panorama* interview and this is undoubtedly going to be the same." NBC Super-

channel, which broadcasts across America and Europe, said: "We are definitely interested in buying this programme but have not managed to do so as yet."

Sky Television said it had rejected the interview and was urging other broadcasters to follow suit. Ian Cook, head of news, said: "We are concerned that this type of proposal would see producers receiving large sums of money for an interview in which James Hewitt does not submit himself to independent, rigorous questioning."

Diary, page 22  
Letters, page 23

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MOI 551 NG

## British tourist in Cyprus 'attacked by troops'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOLOU  
IN LARNACA

TWO British soldiers serving with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in Cyprus will be charged with assaulting a British tourist who suffered severe concussion after a late-night incident outside a pub in Larnaca.

Peter Kelly, 23, was "badly battered and bruised, but in a stable condition and out of danger", a doctor at Larnaca hospital said. He was due to fly back to Britain yesterday with his girlfriend Jane Cole, 21, who had allegedly been insulted by the soldiers in the incident on Wednesday.

The trouble came hours after the regiment's commanding officer lifted a ban on his men visiting pubs on the Larnaca tourist strip following a brawl last Friday.

The incidents have appalled Army commanders waiting for a Larnaca court to pass judgment later this month on three Royal Green Jackets accused of kidnapping, conspiring to rape and killing a Danish woman in the resort of Ayia Napa 19 months ago.

"This really does not help at all," a senior officer said. Ayia Napa has since been out of bounds to all military and civilian personnel from Britain's two sovereign bases.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment replaced the Royal Green Jackets in January. The Army says that only a tiny minority of off-duty soldiers cause trouble.

Police sources said Wednesday's incident began when a group of soldiers were allegedly abusive to Miss Cole. "It appears the boyfriend went outside with two of the men," the source said. "She alleges when they came back in they told her they had sorted out her boyfriend."

She went back to her apartment but he was not there so she called the police who found him concussed in hospital. Doctors said he had no brain damage and his skull had not been fractured.

Miss Cole was unwilling to talk to reporters yesterday. Doctors said Mr Kelly was still too unwell to come to the telephone.



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# Latest SAS TV drama fuels call for secrecy

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY chiefs have been angered by a new ITV documentary series about the SAS, in which former members take part in reconstructions of missions.

The series, *SAS — The Soldiers' Stories*, coincides with moves by the Ministry of Defence and the SAS Regimental Association to make former and serving members of the regiment sign lifetime confidentiality contracts.

The gagging proposal comes after the recent publication of books by former soldiers, including the best-selling *Barrow Two Zero* by Andy McNab, and the screening of a controversial television film, *The One That Got Away*, based on the experiences of Chris Ryan, a former SAS trooper. The two-hour programme about an ill-fated Gulf War patrol provoked a storm of protest from survivors of the mission and relatives of the deceased when it was shown two weeks ago.

The new seven-part series has been made with the co-operation of a dozen former SAS members. One will appear to camera, the others will be shown in silhouette or wearing black balaclavas. They will be seen taking part in reconstructions of SAS missions, including the storming of the Iranian embassy in London in 1980.

Steve Clark, controller of factual programmes at Carlton Television, which has commissioned the series, said the programme would provide the definitive version of the siege and its relief.

"It was shot and directed by some of the men who actually took part," he said. "They made us re-shoot everything until we got it right. We filmed it in Princes Gate, a few doors away from the actual location." Mr Clark said that the



Clark: said former SAS men took part in filming

programmes take the form of narrative by the former soldiers, some of whom had only recently left the service. The reconstructions take the form of flashbacks.

Other missions dramatised in the series include the battle of Mirbat in Oman in 1972, when nine SAS men held off an attacking force of 400 local insurgents in a small fort. The incident has gone down in regimental legend as one of the SAS's finest missions.

There are also reconstructions of several Gulf War missions, though not the ill-fated Bravo Two Zero mission, and episodes from the Falklands war, including SAS raids on airbases and action behind enemy lines.

The Ministry of Defence said it was aware of the series but had not co-operated with it. "Our only interest in it would be to prevent anything going out that damages national security," a spokesman said.

Privately, however, defence chiefs have made it clear they wish that the series had never been made. They fear that, together with the McNab and Ryan books, it could unleash a flood of important information about the highly secretive service.

Traditionally, the regiment has shunned overt publicity, relying instead on carefully placed media stories over which it has tight control and which allow it to bask in the glory of its heroic achievements.

Although former SAS members — including Sir Peter de la Billière, a former SAS commander who led British forces in the Gulf War — have talked to the media before and some have spoken openly about the SAS, the ITV documentary will be the first series dedicated entirely to the regiment and the first to include dramatic reconstructions made by those who took part in them.

To prevent further details emerging about the regiment's operations, David Lyon, Colonel Commandant of the SAS Regimental Association, recently sent letters and questionnaires to members on the regiment's secrecy proposals telling them that unofficial coverage of its past and present activities was damaging the reputation of the regiment.

The association is also proposing to create a permanent disclosure committee to advise HQ Special Forces and the Ministry of Defence.

Potter: raced to finish his final two series

## BBC and C4 to honour Potter's dying wish

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE dying wish of Denis Potter will come true next month when the BBC and Channel 4 screen the playwright's last two television works, *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, in the first joint venture of its kind.

BBC1 announced yesterday that it would screen *Karaoke*, starring Albert Finney and Julie Christie, on Sundays from April 28, with the four episodes being repeated each week on Channel 4 on Mon-

days. The drama is semi-autobiographical and tells the story of a writer who believes his own characters are coming alive around him.

The sequel, *Cold Lazarus*, with Albert Finney and Frances de la Tour, will then be shown by Channel 4 on Sundays from May 26, repeated on BBC1 from May 27. It is set in London and Los Angeles in 1968, where a privileged elite is under siege from a guerilla movement. Potter's

last public request was that the two broadcasters join forces to produce and schedule the two dramas, which he raced to complete before his death from cancer in June 1994.

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said that the two broadcasters had done everything they could to fulfil their promise to Potter. "I'm sure the audience and critics will agree that these last two serials stand up there with the

very best of Dennis's work." Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, said: "I am glad that we are able to offer such a fitting tribute to one of the most original voices in television drama."

□ Ewan McGregor, one of the stars of *Trainspotting*, the controversial film about drug addicts, has landed his first Hollywood film role. He will take the lead role as a morgue attendant opposite Nick Nolte in *Nightwatch*.

## Soprano plans opera centre for Wales

THE Welsh soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones is planning to set up an opera performance and international study centre at Craig-y-nos castle, Powys, which has a theatre said to be a miniature of Wagner's *Festspielhaus* at Bayreuth.

Dame Gwyneth said it would be her gift to Wales. "I'd rather do something I can build up and control than leave money after my death for scholarships. I intend establishing a charitable trust and hope to bring in other interested people."

Her announcement follows the rejection of the bid for lottery funding by Cardiff Bay Opera House. Dame Gwyneth, a trustee of that scheme, said: "It's disgraceful that Wales doesn't have its own place to stage opera. We'll get an opera house by hook or by crook." The project would be a step towards that.

She added: "It's a shame most of the finest Welsh singers have had to leave Wales to do their studies." The architect Roger Clive-Powell is to look into the plans.

Weekend, page 17

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
Robert Harris on Diana and the Establishment



At least 50% of the manipulation has come from the other side, yet it is Diana who ends up with the reputation as the villainous schemer.

It has been a classic Establishment job, with no fingerprints left at the scene... ■

Robert Harris begins a new weekly political column in News Review — The Sunday Times tomorrow

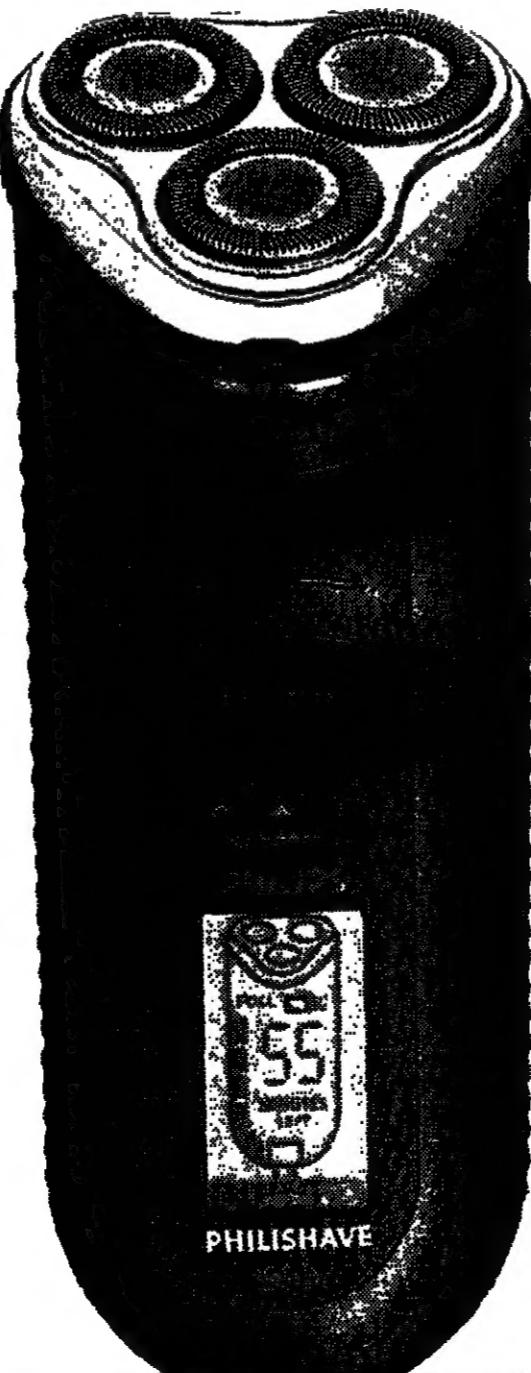


Saffron Burrows and Albert Finney who star in Denis Potter's Karaoke

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# Satellite puts drivers on the information super-highway

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORING EDITOR

DRIVERS looking for a hotel, restaurant or petrol station in an unfamiliar area will soon be able to contact a satellite for help. The OnStar car computer system will also enable them to contact rescue services or send messages to their families.

The equipment will be installed next year on General Motors' Cadillac range. Car owners will be offered a mobile cellular telephone, programmed for a series of services that can be called by pushing a programmed button. The telephone is linked directly to a GM control room, connected to the Global Positioning System network of 20 military satellites.

The satellites track the motorist by signalling to a small transmitter inside the car. Its computer responds to messages from the control room.

Cadillac owners locked out of their cars, for instance, can telephone a free phone number, identify the car using code numbers and a password and ask the control room to trigger the locks to open at a specified time. If they have also locked their mobile telephone inside the car, the free phone number can be called from a telephone box.

If the car breaks down on a

strange road, drivers can push a callout button, enabling the control room to fix their position on a digital map and send a rescue lorry. Drivers involved in a "road rage" attack can lock their doors and hit an emergency button on the mobile telephone to tell the control room to fix the car's position and send in the police.

A driver running low on fuel can receive directions to the nearest petrol station, or find out where the nearest hotel, restaurant or cash machine is. Controllers will also send messages home to worried families or carry out missed errands.

OnStar also works as an anti-theft device because the

control room is always able to pinpoint the location of the car, wherever it is driven in the world.

G. Richard Waggoner, president of GM's North American Operations, said: "People are spending more time in their vehicles than ever before and our research shows a tremendous interest in user-friendly technologies that can make driving more secure and enjoyable. Until now, the information revolution has touched the automobile in only the most mechanical and operational ways."

The equipment could be extended to other General Motors models, including those made by Vauxhall, within two years.

□ Ford recalled more than 150,000 Ford Fiestas yesterday after discovering a seatbelt fault. The company urged drivers of G and H-registered cars to take them to Ford dealers for safety checks.

The decision follows an investigation by the Driving Standards Agency, which received complaints from driving schools claiming that the belts might not work in an emergency stop. Repairs on the cars, made between March 1989 and September 1990, will be carried out free.

Peter Baruau, Car 96, page 2

## Gourmet ticket for InterCity franchise bidder

By JONATHAN PRYNN

TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE award-winning chef Marco Pierre White has been enlisted to back the management bid to buy the InterCity East Coast line.

Mr White, the first British-born chef to be awarded three Michelin stars, is the latest gastronome to attempt to improve the stale-sandwich image of railway catering. His predecessors have included Clement Freud and Prue Leith.

The East Coast management team is believed to have plans for a three-tier catering service on its line: a silver-service restaurant with a menu overseen by Mr White, a midprice sit-down cafeteria, and a mass-market "crisps and Coke" buffet car.

Further food experience is provided by Lord Shepherd of Didsbury, chairman of the management bid company, Wendlordbray. He stepped down this week as chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the owner of Burger King and Häagen-Dazs ice-cream.

The five-hour journey from London King's Cross to Edinburgh is one of the few on the British Rail network long enough for chefs to prepare and serve a meal of Michelin-star quality. It is heavily used



Marco Pierre White is advising on food on the move

by executives. BT, another adviser to the management team, is thought to be helping with plans for fax machines, chair-back video screens and other electronic equipment on the trains.

The bid is being backed by 3i, Royal Bank of Scotland, CGEA, a French transport company, and Intermediate Capital Group. Rival bids have been made by Sea Containers, National Express and Stagecoach. The successful bidder is likely to take control of the service at the end of

May. Three other franchises for which bids closed yesterday were Garwick Express, which has received bids from two management teams and Virgin Group; Midland Main Line; and Network South Central.

Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, said that 19 companies had expressed interest in bidding for South Wales & West and the Cardiff Railway Company, the latest franchises to go on the market.

Food and drink, The Magazine, page 49

## The £3bn tunnel rail link: good deal or rip-off?

THE £3 billion Channel tunnel rail link contract awarded to the London & Continental Railways consortium has been simultaneously hailed as an historic breakthrough in the modernisation of Britain's archaic infrastructure and condemned as a monumental rip-off for the taxpayer.

Which view is correct and who has got the best of the deal — the Government or the private interests represented by the consortium? □ Why is the rail link being built?

In total, the consortium needs to find £2 billion. The initial phase, before work on constructing the link starts late next year, will be funded by a £150 million mixture of bank debt and financial contributions from L&CR's eight shareholders. The later construction phase will be financed through a £1 billion public share issue on the stock market, more bank borrowings and cashflow from a — by then, it is hoped — profitable Eurostar. The link is expected to be open in 2003.

□ Why is Eurostar losing so much money?

The train service, though widely admired, has not proved as popular as the Government hoped. Only three million passengers used it last year, about half the forecast. The Brussels service still operates only a third full and is heavily loss-making, although Paris is performing well. It is also being hit by heavy charges by Railtrack every time a Eurostar train is late.

□ How will L&CR turn round Eurostar?

The consortium is pinning its hopes on better marketing, lower fares, improved ticket distribution and a jazzed-up on-board service to attract more passengers. Eurostar will be, in effect, relaunched when L&CR takes over in April.

□ Why is Richard Branson so enthusiastic about L&CR?

Mr Branson's Virgin Group

has been frustrated in its attempts to win landing slots at Heathrow and Gatwick airports for the lucrative Paris and Brussels air routes. Eurostar gives Virgin an earthbound option that he hopes will transform cross-Channel travel in the way that Virgin Atlantic forced British Airways and other airlines to upgrade Atlantic services. He is also negotiating to buy a Belgian airline to link services with the Brussels Eurostar to create a pan-European transport network.

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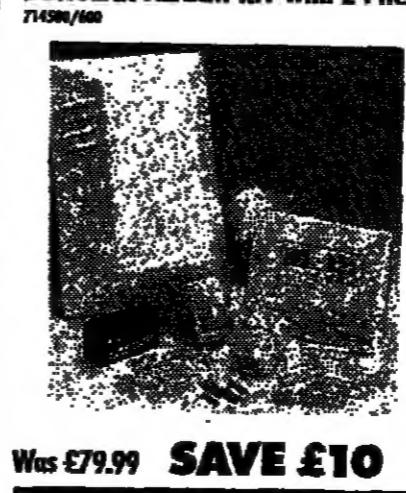


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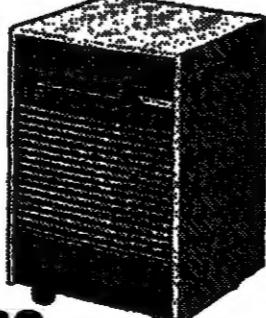
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BARCLAYS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Flagstones 'too cold for comfort'

## Bishop puts his foot down over cathedral floor

BY RUTH GLEDFIELD, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Chester, fed up with stumbling over the old, uneven flagstones of his cathedral, has dismayed conservationists by insisting the floor be replaced.

The Right Rev Michael Baughen says the late 18th-century floor of the aisle is dangerous and he fears the cathedral could be sued if someone were injured.

He also wants underfloor heating to be installed, arguing that he can no longer bear to watch musicians turn blue while they entertain equally cold congregations.

Conservationists, however, are eager to protect the red sandstone flagstones which are admired by worshippers for their ancient, mellow appearance.

Bishop Baughen said his last wish before his retirement was to have his dream of a new floor fulfilled. "I want to get warm. It really is intolerable difficult. The only way to get heat into the cathedral is to lift the floor and put underfloor heating in."

The cathedral is renowned. Everyone knows that when you go there for a concert or

big event, you put on about 16 layers of clothing and still sit there with the cold coming up through your feet. At the annual NSPCC children's event, everybody endures it rather than being able to relax."

The cathedral does have a Victorian heating system, but the five free-standing heaters have to be turned off during services and performances because they are noisy.

"The floor is impossible to walk down with any dignity at all," the bishop added. "You have to look down all the time and pick your way across the stones. If it was a public building it would have been closed down as dangerous by the health and safety authorities."

"People have twisted their ankles. I have stumbled. I'm surprised the cathedral has not been sued already. It is extremely serious. A properly laid floor would look magnificent."

The cathedral, a former Benedictine abbey founded in the 11th century, has launched its second appeal in 25 years, for £2.55 million, to fund

restoration of the floor and other areas. Nearly £1 million has been raised and the cathedral authorities are awaiting permission to start work on the floor, beginning with archaeological excavations.

Dominic Lockett, northern officer of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, has sent a protest letter to England's Cathedral Fabric Commission, which is examining the preliminary proposals. He claims a new floor would ruin the building's character.

"It would look out of place in such an old cathedral. It is a beautifully worn floor. We believe repairs to the broken flags could easily solve the problem," he said.

David Burrows, cathedral administrator, said: "We have problems with people tripping and some have hurt themselves. We are frightened there might be a serious accident. A new floor may look a bit out of place until it is worn a little, but we have to think of safety first."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3



Royal post: Canon Marion Mingins, 43, above, a residential canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, has become the first woman in the Church of England to be appointed a chaplain to the Queen. The ceremonial post, the personal gift of the Queen, will allow Canon Mingins, originally from Tyneside, to preach once a year in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace

## The importance of finding time alone with yourself

### Credo

THE frenzied pace of modern life, with its onslaught of choices and pressures, paralyzes many of us with a fear of silence and solitude. Our daily dependence upon noise and ceaseless activity is perhaps why, for many people, the current season of Lent elicits pained reactions.

Eleven days into Lent, the 40 days which mark Jesus's testing in the wilderness, I wonder if we have the courage to make space to face the deeper questions in our own lives. In recent years I have visited Israel on retreat. I return each time surer than ever that the busier I become the greater is my need for inner resources from God who, as the psalmist says, "restores my soul".

The barren wilderness of the Judean desert was for Jesus no weekend break. He wrestled with eternal truths, affirming his own identity with the statement "man shall not live by bread alone". We instinctively agree with these words. We know that we are more than the sum total of our genetic make-up. But our longing for greater wisdom and spirituality is stamped by the materialist rush.

How can we make time this Lent for silence and solitude? Perhaps by turning off the television for a few evenings, or fighting the temptation to switch on the radio during a car journey. It is so important



Clive Calver

to create time for standing back and taking stock of our lives as Jesus did. Even when others clamoured for his attention, he knew the significance of being alone. At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The place were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. (Luke IV, 42).

Entering "a wilderness" of our own can be transforming. It can also be painful. We may have to face tough issues such as bereavement, failure, broken relationships and insecurity. This Lent we may need to

repent over past actions towards others, or adopt humility in current relationships. What ultimately matters, however, is what we do with these experiences. The promise of Jesus is that he walks along the difficult road with us. For it is not suffering that destroys people, it is suffering without meaning. Even positive questions like "why is there beauty in the world?" could become a scourge from which we gain no quick release. And yet Lent promises that the wilderness is not for ever.

If we can overcome our aversion to quietness and our uneasiness with being alone, we will discover that letting go of human securities in order to wrestle and search, will liberate us to discover more of our real identity and purposes. With the triumph of the Resurrection already on the horizon, God himself promises "I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." (Is 41, 15).

□ The Rev Clive Calver is the Director-General of the Evangelical Alliance UK.

## Church praises band of lay volunteers

AT LEAST six out of ten services in the Methodist church are conducted by local preachers and not ordained ministers, the church said yesterday. The church, which later this year celebrates the bicentenary of the creation of local preachers in 1796, yesterday praised its "band of dedicated and unpaid volunteers", which dates from the time of

John Wesley and the beginnings of Methodism.

The Methodist church now has 12,612 local preachers — lay church members who volunteer to be trained as preachers — as well as the 3,459 ordained ministers. Women have been able to be local preachers for two centuries, although they could not be ordained as ministers until 1974.

### THE TIMES

#### Put your preacher forward

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#### PREACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day tel no. \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a typed manuscript of a sermon not exceeding 3,000 words. Tapes will not be accepted. Entry is restricted to one sermon per person and consent of the preacher must be granted.

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'Honest John' poised to end Labor's 13-year reign in Australia

## Poll signals defeat for Keating

BY ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AUSTRALIANS have turned on Paul Keating, their Prime Minister, and are poised to shun Labor in today's general election, ending the party's 13-year hold on power.

A poll published in the national daily, *The Australian*, showed Labor trailing by seven points, a deficit that would translate into a loss of 23 seats in the House of Representatives. Such an outcome would be a severe personal defeat for Mr Keating and a blow to his hopes of cutting ties with the monarchy and declaring a republic by 2000.

The Australian poll, by the Newspoll group, gave Labor only 40.5 per cent of the primary vote, with the Liberal-National Party coalition re-

ceiving 48 per cent. Under the preferential voting system, this would deliver John Howard's team a landslide victory with 53.5 per cent of the vote with preferences are distributed.

Pollsters say voters have deserted Labor in its heartland of New South Wales, where 13 seats are in doubt.

The anti-Labor mood is similar in Queensland, where Labor could lose another eight seats.

"Honest John" Howard, 56, unloved but respected, fought a dour campaign for the Liberals in which he condemned Labor's handling of the economy and promised to curb the trade unionism which he says is stifling business.

"This is tight," he said. "We have a volatile electorate there are still many people who don't make up their minds until they enter the booths. I take nothing for granted."

However, Bob Hawke, the

former Prime Minister and most successful of Labor leaders, was braced for defeat. "My heart says I hope Labor can win. My mind says there will be a change of government," said Mr Hawke, who was ousted by Mr Keating in a 1991 party coup.

Labor Party strategists fear they are trailing in key marginal seats. Even a modest swing against Keating would extinguish the political careers of some of Labor's brightest young talents.

Those who may be heading for the political wilderness include Michael Lavarch, the Attorney-General, who only six months ago was being hailed as a future Prime Minister; Gary Johns, the Special Minister of State, and

Robert Tickner, the Aboriginal Affairs Minister.

Today's vote covers not only the House of Representatives, but half the Senate. Voters will be confronted by a ballot paper up to 3ft long to accommodate the extraordinary number of individuals standing for election.

In New South Wales, for example, six Senate seats are being contested by 63 candidates. These in turn are split into 18 different groups and cover such diverse interests as The Reclaim Australia Group, the No Airport Noise movement and the Call to Australia party.

Even if he is victorious, Mr Howard faces a baptism of fire. Trade unions, sensing a conservative victory, have promised industrial "war" in support of new wage claims. Moreover, Labor could also frustrate a new government by siding with the left-wing Australian Democrats and Greens, who will probably hold the balance of power in the Senate.

Labor's campaign suffered another body blow on the eve of the election when the influential Business Council of Australia disputed a claim by Mr Keating that living standards had risen 1 per cent since Labor came to office. The council retorted that standards had, in fact, fallen by 13 per cent since 1981.

A Keating defeat would signal the end of one of the most dynamic yet controversial eras in Australian politics.

Under Mr Hawke's leadership, Labor established an accord with the trade unions, which kept a lid on wage demands and reduced strikes. With Mr Keating as Treasurer, Labor had a formidable duo in charge, guiding Australia through some of its most radical economic reforms, including the floating of the dollar and the deregulation of financial markets.

Voting is compulsory. At the last election nearly 500,000 of registered voters failed to do their democratic duty, and 20,000 were fined the equivalent of £12 each.



Noa Ben-Artzi, granddaughter of the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, lights a candle on his tomb at Mount Herzl cemetery yesterday

## Israel rejects offer of Hamas ceasefire

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday rejected a conditional offer of a ceasefire made by the leadership of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which earlier this week killed 26 people and wounded more than 100 in three terror attacks.

In the offer, Hamas demanded the release of all its prisoners in Israeli jails and "an end to Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilians on conquered lands". The speed of the Israeli Cabinet's rejection of the deal, which included a temporary halt to suicide attacks until next Friday, was seen as likely to herald more violence.

One result of the attacks so far has been to reduce the lead of Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, in the opinion polls so that he is now running level with Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing challenger who has pledged to freeze large sections of the 1993 peace deal with the Palestinians if he wins the general election on May 29. Hamas threatened to resume military action if Israel failed to respond to the proposal after a week.

## Capitalist given star treatment in Peking

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PEKING

CHINESE Communist Party officials joined astronomers and scientists last night to fete a businessman who was the first to own a Ferrari in China. At the gala occasion an asteroid discovered during the heyday of Mao Tse-tung was named after Li Xiaohua.

Mr Li's recognition was in contrast to the practice in Mao's days, when peasants were regarded as the most honoured workers. There was no place for industrialists in the planned economy.

As Mr Li accepted the accolades at a five-star hotel in Peking, the People's Liberation Army sang patriotic songs such as *China's Star*. Rock singers also entertained the gathering.

The asteroid was discovered in 1984 by the Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanking. Last night, it was renamed "Li Xiaohua planet" in recognition of the philanthropist's "contributions to education, science and technology".

Mr Li, whose company markets a "cure" for baldness, had until now been famous for paying £80,000 in 1993 to buy the first red Ferrari in China. His customised number plate is A00001.

Besides selling hair tonic, the 45-year-old entrepreneur, described by one Hong Kong magazine as the second-richest man in China, has interests in property, food processing, electrical appliances, plastics, tourism and entertainment. He is a success story in a new China that espouses ailing leader Deng Xiaoping's dictum "to get rich is glorious".

At the China World Hotel last night, Mr Li said: "My family was very poor and I didn't have the amount of toys children have these days, but it was a joy to count the number of stars in the Milky Way."

This was an honour for Chinese all over the world, he said. His nomination was approved by the International Astronomical Union in America.

### THE PARTIES



PAUL JOHN KEATING, 51  
Australian Labor Party

### THE ISSUES



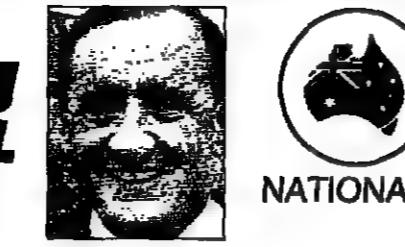
JOHN WINSTON HOWARD, 56  
Liberal Party

### THE POLL



TIM ANDREW FISCHER, 50  
National Party

### THE POLLS



POLICY: "Honest" John Winston (named after Churchill) is uncharismatic but trustworthy. Unkindly depicted by cartoonists as a quacking duck or hairy monkey. Pledges to take on the unions with Thatcher-style reforms.

ECONOMY: The Leader of the Opposition is staunchly pro-business, especially favouring small business. He proposes tax rebates for families. Also wants a "safety net" minimum-wage scale for Australian blue-collar workers.

MONARCHY: Mr Howard will slow down the process towards a republic by proposing a long (read tedious) people's convention. This will be made up of politicians and eminent citizens who will be asked to investigate the options.

POLICY: Mr Fischer is in coalition with the Liberals. If they win, he becomes Deputy Prime Minister. The Old Country Party is big in the outback. Nearly quit politics after a car crash, but returned to Canberra to be Mr Howard's right hand.

ECONOMY: His chief responsibility is foreign trade, which is crucial to Australia's future. Also responsible for mines and energy. Admired by his opponents, but will be tough in ore and wool trade deals with big players like the Japanese?

MONARCHY: *God Save the Queen* is the slogan in the outback. Support for the monarchy is strongest among National Party electorates, especially Queensland. The Nationals also resist moves to rid the Australian flag of the Union Jack.

John Howard's Liberal/National coalition will face a rocky road even if it wins an outright majority in the House of Representatives, because the Australian

Democrats and the Greens will hold the balance of power in the Senate. Labor could entice them to block initiatives proposed by Mr Howard and Mr Fischer.

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Our City Editor on the fracas at the Stock Exchange

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A designer who works to death



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Spectre of defeat opens Atherton to leading questions

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF EAGLE STAR

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

## Factories standstill fuels case for further rate cut

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH manufacturing industry has stagnated for six months, putting pressure on jobs and prices and shortening the odds on another interest rate cut next week.

Manufacturing activity contracted fractionally last month and prices slumped to their lowest level for four years, according to the latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply, based on questionnaires sent to purchasing executives in 310 industrial companies.

The overall Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 49.8 per cent in February, from 50.3 per cent in January. A reading below 50 per cent signals a contraction in manufacturing activity. With demand generally weak, the prices index fell sharply, to 44.4 per cent, its lowest level

since January 1992 and down from 49.1 per cent in January this year. This was the fourth successive month in which prices fell. Last month, only a quarter of managers surveyed reported lower prices than a month earlier.

The employment index fell below the crucial 50 per cent level for the second month running, a sign that companies are shedding labour to cope with lower demand, and therefore output.

The chartered institute noted that February was the sixth successive month without any significant growth in manufacturing. Peter Thomson, its director-general, said that the sector is a hotchpotch of different conditions — firms producing goods for consumer markets are buoyant but manufacturers of capital equipment

such as plant and machinery, are stagnant, he said. Yesterday's purchasing managers' survey, the first key snapshot of the month, added to the City's conviction that base rates will be cut, with many economists betting on a 1-point move after next Thursday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, promptly revised his forecast for growth this year down to 2 per cent, against the Treasury's forecast of 3 per cent. He said that growth in the first half of this year will be well below the economy's sustainable rate of growth and that inflation and base rates have much further to fall. "If Mr Clarke moves

quickly he will meet little Bank of England resistance in cutting rates as low as 5 per cent," he said.

Don Smith, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said that the purchasing managers' survey had been more accurate than any other in predicting conditions in manufacturing industry. The drop in prices points to another fall in producer input prices this month — an indicator keenly watched by the Bank of England — and the survey in total "clearly strengthens the case for an imminent rate cut", he said.

British Government bonds soared yesterday on strengthening hopes of a rate cut here and abroad. The US National Purchasing Managers' Index published yesterday showed a disappointing bounce back from January when business

was hit by winter blizzards, and the figures were taken on Wall Street as a sign that US rates may be cut again. In addition, the Tankan survey on the Japanese economy was weak enough to allay fears that Japanese interest rates may be on the way up.

A combination of apparently low inflation and sluggish growth in Britain, coupled with the prospect of rate cuts here and abroad, sent gilt futures prices soaring by 1.2 points. Short sterling futures on the Liffe market rallied sharply, too, and are now pricing in another 1-point cut in base rates.

City economists said a rate cut next week is now such a foregone conclusion that it would be an opportunity missed if the authorities opted to keep rates unchanged.

'Modest recovery' in homes market

By KAREN ZAGOR

THERE was more evidence of a fragile recovery in the housing market yesterday when the Nationwide Building Society reported a 0.9 per cent rise in its seasonally adjusted house price index in the year to February.

Nationwide said the rise was consistent with a modest recovery in the market. Paul Sanderson, head of research, said: "Prices seem to have bottomed out since last autumn and there has been a modest upward trend since."

This was borne out by news that TSB Bank's Affordability Index has reached its lowest level since 1978. TSB estimates that a typical buyer this year will spend £25.70 on mortgage payments out of every £100 in take-home pay, compared with £30 last year.

The Nationwide report, in isolation, was not particularly encouraging. The average house price in February was £51,256, an improvement on every month since August but below last year's peak of £52,180 in May.

The society, like most lenders, has been discounting mortgage rates and offering cash incentives to encourage people to buy. Michael Foot, head of banking supervision at the Bank of England, has told banks and building societies that thinner margins for personal mortgages may sow the seeds for trouble in the future.

The Bank of England said: "Lenders must take into account that somewhere along the line some people might not be able to repay their loans and they do need to bear this in mind when pricing products."

Another concern is that the surfeit of cashback and discount schemes may encourage too many people to take out unrealistic loans. The cash component can be substantial. Newcastle Building Society's 6 per cent rebate will pay up to £15,000, while Chelsea Building Society is offering a 5 per cent rebate, with a cap of £10,000.

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Pensions guide part 1: questions answered



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What is it worth? How to get an object valued



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TI 17.02.96

## MFI to invest £60m on store designs

By MARIANNE CURPHY

MFI, mass-producer of flat-pack furniture, is to spend £60 million over the next few years upgrading its network of stores to extend their appeal.

The move follows the success of a new store design called HomeWorks which has been tested at various outlets and involves rearranging displays to give them a more spacious feel.

John Randall, managing director, said existing stores feel too "enclosed" and the redesign was based on two-and-a-half years of research.

Sales in France between November and February in



John Randall said displays would be arranged to give stores a more spacious feel

## Young close to £2.4m payoff

By MARTIN WALLER AND JON ASHWORTH

LORD YOUNG of Graftham, the former Cabinet minister who was ousted in November, is close to agreeing a £2.4m payoff.

The balance of the money will come from Lord Young's outstanding share options, and the deal is along the lines of that agreed with James Ross, the former chief executive, last week.

No formal statement has been made over a settlement, and a G&W spokesman said: "The position we're in is the same as it was ten days ago."

But Lord Young is expected shortly to accept the deal offered by his former employer. This would pay him just short of £120,000, or three months' salary, in compensation for loss of office, under the terms of an agreement hammered out yesterday. Mr Lawrence was dismissed from the £40,000-a-year post in January.

Boots is currently market leader with 1,200 UK chemists' shops out of a total

## Lloyds Chemists bids referred

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE Department of Trade yesterday referred the UniChem bid for Lloyds Chemists to the Monopolies Commission and sought permission from Brussels to investigate the rival bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical group. The announcement knocked 17p off Lloyds' shares to 46p. UniChem fell 3p to 243p.

John Taylor, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said the UniChem bid was being referred because of "competition concerns in the wholesale and retail pharmaceutical markets". He said that the Gehe bid "raises competition concerns in distinct markets within the UK, in particular the wholesale and retail pharmaceutical markets".

Analysts said UniChem would have to make disposals in order to be allowed to take over Lloyds, a possibility hinted at in its offer document. The City believes the OFT is concerned more at erosion between wholesale and retail sides of pharmaceuticals rather than a straightforward retail monopoly.

Boots is currently market leader with 1,200 UK chemists' shops out of a total

## Memory loss

Shares in Memory Corporation plunged after the group reported a 1995 loss increased to £1.95 million and said that 1996 revenues would be affected by a significant fall in the price of Memory products. Page 28. Tempus 30

Tempus, page 30



## A WORKING WEEK FOR: HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

## Bombed out even before the Valley of Death

With London Fashion Week in full swing,  
Jon Ashworth meets a young designer  
who refuses to compromise over control

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

Hussein Chalayan has the glazed, bombed-out look of someone who has seen one flashbulb too many. He turns up for the interview with the mournful demeanour of a child whose favourite dog has just been run over by the woman next door. Or that of the top student who just wiped out on all his grades. His handshake is firm, but he appears downright miserable. "I'm very interested in death," he confides, pouting moodily across the table. "I used to bury clothes in my back garden."

But then one cannot be too harsh. Chalayan did not sleep a wink on Wednesday night in the rush to complete his new collection in time for his turn on the catwalk at London Fashion Week. As the models flitted into the spotlight on Thursday afternoon, Chalayan was ready by the exit, scanning for flaws. "There are moments of panic where you have the wrong model for the wrong dress or the garment is on the wrong way round. You end up sewing safety pins on. When you're in that situation, it's terrifying, but looking back on it, it's quite funny."

Once the applause died, Chalayan was dragged out for the interviews — 13 of them, back to back, as it turned out. Then there was the party, and the backslapping, and the, er, post-mortem. Now, the morning after, it is hardly surprising that he looks a little jaded. "I see it as a job," he mumbles. "It's good to show your face; to show appreciation for people who have turned up." To the tourists strolling down the Cromwell Road, London Fashion Week is a couple of monstrous wedding-cake white marques, tucked in the shadow of the Natural History Museum, and surrounded by television vans.

Even without the press passes to get in, one word stands out: sponsorship. The slogan "sponsored by Vidal Sassoon" leaps out from the side of the tents. Lloyds Bank, Rolls-Royce and Maurice Lacroix have their names in lights. Renault Espace has provided a fleet of cars. Harrods has laid on the Harrods bus. Even the caged dinosaur at the entrance is brought to you "courtesy of Wallis". This is big business.

The Hussein Chalayan stand is in an upstairs corner, looking out on to a table adorned with glasses of orange juice and the remains of a croissant. Men with strange haircuts and thick-rimmed glasses look on as Chalayan poses moodily on the floor, musing to himself about death and mortality. Buyers from as far afield as Hong Kong and Korea have flown in for the festivities.

Even Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, has called in: endorsing the £50,000 in sponsorship put up by the Department of Trade and Industry to

help young designers to participate. Designer names like Amanda Wakeley and Katharine Hamnett are the visible end of a huge industry. British clothing and textiles companies employ 410,000 people and boast an annual production of £15.5 billion; £5.5 billion of which is in export sales. Exports of British designer merchandise contribute £220 million a year.

Japan has overtaken America as the UK's largest export market, according to newly-released figures from the British Knitting & Clothing Export Council. Apparel exports to countries outside the European Union increased from £745.6 million in 1994 to £898.3 million in 1995. Exports to Japan grew by 25 per cent to £125.9 million. South Korea, Russia and Kuwait showed significant gains.

Chalayan, 25, graduated two years ago from Central St Martins and caught the eye of Browns of South Molton Street, who put his graduation collection on display. A fertile imagination was given free reign. "It's not a woman he's designing for," whispers a starstruck aide. "It just happens the medium he translates through is fashion. He's buried clothes covered in iron filings in his garden. He could have been a fine artist, or a film maker."

The designer, it seems, is fascinated by

technology — he once incorporated a row of flashing LED lights into a jacket. Fine, but who wears such things? Well, Björk, for one. The Icelandic singer, last seen beating up a television journalist at Bangkok airport, is a "huge" fan of the Chalayan look. So is Kylie Minogue, but fashionable Cher has so far resisted the designer's charms. "You need a strong personality," says the aide. "It's not just for young girls."

Chalayan's current success owes much to Absolut Vodka, which awarded him a £28,000 bursary last year, and is providing more or less open-ended sponsorship. It recently stamped up a new computer system, and telephone and fax machine. "Designing is what we do and not shuffling paper," sniffs Chalayan.

Working from cramped quarters in Endell Street, Covent Garden, the Chalayan team has spent the past two months completing the 50 outfits in the new Chalayan collection, *Still Life*. The last week swept by in a succession of late nights. "We've been working on the show since the end of December," says Chalayan, relaxing in a coffee bar run by the ubiquitous Leiths. "It's been the hardest season for us. We were all eating at the studio. It became a bit of a commute at the end. It was a hard show for us, but it went smoothly."

While Tomasz Starzewski and others were enjoying their turn on the catwalk, Chalayan and his team were engaged in a final race against time. "You're going until the last minute," he muses. "That's the frightening part of it. You work for months, and the whole thing is over in 20



The morning-after look: after months of preparation and last-minute panic, the 20-minute show has come and gone — plus 13 interviews and a party

minutes." Designing, Chalayan insists, is not about cutting pieces of cloth to order. It is about creating contexts: symbolising ideas. So what about the clothes-burying incident? Chalayan explains that he wrote a story, and wanted his clothes to go through the same thing — to attain a life of their own. "In my fictional narrative, a group of dancers have magnetised clothes. They are ridiculed by people who throw iron filings at them, then they are kidnapped, killed and buried." Not a sidesplitting read, then? Chalayan shakes his head. "I'm very interested in death. I think, and there's always an aspect of that in my clothes." The garments were later dug up and cleaned.

Electric jackets and the like are strictly for the catwalk. Chalayan appears horrified by the prospect that someone might actually buy them. "Imagine trying to make 100 light jackets?" The new collection owes less to technology, and more to the art deco period — a subject to which he warms. "The media of that period was very manipulative. Religion and the media. The manipulation of the masses."

"I used the Art Deco cinematic influence in the show. It's like a metaphor. You start wearing it all the time." He starts muttering about golden lams, and emblems for 1930s films. "That time was very beautiful, but very ugly behind. Up to the 1950s, everyone looked the same, whereas now, everyone is more them-

selves. It is more about a certain feel — 'Still Life', as in a still from a life, or still as in death".

Chalayan's models emerged on to the catwalk on Thursday by way of a revolving platform, and this was all part of the theme. "Mannequins," says Chalayan. "Static. Revolving." Does he consider himself an artist? "I'm not anything," he insists. "Basically, it's just an evolution of ideas. I just see myself as myself."

Opinions about Chalayan are divided. Some hail him as one of Britain's sharpest up-and-coming designers, a name to watch. Others can't stand him. "I find him really aggressive," says one observer. "All those skinny, skinny girls." Whatever, he clearly has some original ideas.

Chalayan was born in Nicosia in 1970, to Turkish Cypriot parents, four years before Turkish paratroopers descended on the island. The ensuing conflict has

coloured his life. Chalayan was in England at the time — he went to school in Highgate, north London, and his father remains here. His mother lives in northern Cyprus, but comes to his shows. "A lot of people have a very biased opinion about Cyprus," he says. "If you don't live there, you don't really understand. We're not Turkish. We're Turkish Cypriots. Had Turkey not come in, we would have been wiped out."

Chalayan is already mulling over

designs for his next collection before the next UK show in October. He travels to Paris later this month, and will work on completing the current round of orders, before the cycle begins again.

So what does Chalayan do to unwind? A visit to the London Dungeon or the Chamber of Horrors? Perhaps Death Row in America? "He loves the cinema," croons his assistant. "He loves going out for meals and trying different types of

food. He went to Japan one-and-a-half years ago and had a great time."

And for the future? Chalayan hopes to continue building up turnover and sales without being forced into any big deals that would remove the element of control. A London businessman, whose identity is not disclosed, provides advice on cash flow and other financial matters. As one of the team puts it: "He helps us through the Valley of Death period when you've got all the orders and have to put it all together."

Chalayan is happy to leave the accounts to others. Does he hope to become a Karl Lagerfeld or Bruce Oldfield, with designs in every window? Chalayan shakes his head. "I would like to do quite exclusive. We have to try and strike a balance and not grow too fast. It's not about selling to every Tom, Dick or Harry. There is a certain image, and we want to preserve that."

### HIDDEN ASSETS

## Peer's political salon shows genius of a design pioneer

Joanna Pitman on the William Kent house that is now home to Eagle Star

This house "in its time ... has been a centre of political power, the scene of high ambition", so wrote Sir Denis Mountain in 1984 in the preface to *A House in Town*, published by B.T. Batsford. He might have added that, since 1947, it has also been the West End office of Eagle Star, the insurance group, of which he was then chairman. The house is 22 Arlington Street — next door to the Ritz and fronting on to Green Park — a fine mansion designed by William Kent in 1740 and occupied over the centuries by a succession of grandees.

When Eagle Star bought the house for £250,000, it was in severe disrepair and had failed to find a private buyer. The firm had an eye to redeveloping the valuable site, and No 22's days appeared to be numbered. The house has, however, survived, outliving intrusive redevelopment proposals of the 1960s, and then, in the 1970s, finally undergoing lavish refurbishment that returned it to its original decorative splendour.

John Mills, surveyor in the rebuilding and redecoration, says that the house, "after many vicissitudes, is now several decades into its third century and is alive and well". He adds: "Alive because, although the restoration was in many ways its own reward, what has been produced is no mere museum. The house provides an incomparable venue for business and social functions."

In 1740, Henry Pelham, the future Prime Minister, bought the site of 22 Arlington Street, a fashionable area considered "absolutely the

ministerial street". The *New Review of London*, in 1723, noted "one of the most beautiful situations in Europe, for health, convenience and beauty; the front of the street is in the midst of the hurry and splendour of the town; and the back is in the quiet simplicity of the country".

To build a house fit for this site, Pelham commissioned William Kent, pioneer of neoclassical design.

figures. The magnificent salon, probably designed in the last year of Kent's life, is in the view of David Watkin, the art historian, one of the finest domestic interiors in London.

Kent was a pioneer in his concern to integrate design, decoration and furnishing. The walls and seating decorated with crimson damask in the Great Room, overlooking the park, are testimony to the impact of his conceptions.

Pelham did not enjoy his

house long. On the eve of the general election of 1754, he

caught a chill from walking to the park, and died a few days later. A succession of distinguished residents followed him at No 22, including Lord Gower and Dukes of Rutland, Beaufort and Hamilton. The final private residents, the Guest family, held it for three generations before its sale in 1947.

For Guest, created Viscount Wimborne, was made the first president of the National Liberal Party, in 1931, and the house became an important political meeting place, as well as being the venue for private chamber concerts of the Quartet Society, organised by Lady Wimborne. The house was, perhaps, at its grandest in the 1930s, and the Quartet Society played out its swan-song as a private palace. During the Second World War, the house became a posting centre for the Red Cross.

Today, as well as being a magnificent office and occasional concert hall, for Eagle Star, the refurbished No 22 serves as a monument to the genius of William Kent.



The Great Room, rehung with crimson damask as in 1754

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## Karen Zagor advises a cautious approach to buying a plan

### WEEKEND MONEY GUIDE

**Q** What is an annuity?

**A** An annuity is a lump sum investment paying a guaranteed income which stops at your death. When your personal pension plan matures, the rules require you to buy an annuity from which your pension will be paid. The aim is to stop you spending all the pension money at once on a fiesta holiday and then becoming a burden on the State.

There is a wide range of annuities on the market, and it takes time and effort to choose the best product for your needs. Before deciding, you need to take your age and health into account, as well as your expectations for inflation in the coming years. The decision should not be taken lightly. Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau, says: "With an annuity purchase you must weigh up all options available before you buy because, once bought, you cannot change an annuity."

Age Concern notes that the choice of annuity can affect your retirement income by as much as 25 per cent.

**Q** Who needs an annuity?

**A** Members of personal pension and money-purchase occupational pension schemes must buy annuities.

**Q** Who does not need an annuity?

**A** Members of a large corporate scheme which is self-administered. The company will pay out the pension itself.

**Q** Must I convert all of my pension lump sum into an annuity?

**A** No. In most cases, you can take up to 25 per cent of your pension as a tax-free lump sum. Some, older, policies allow for a lump sum of up to 30 per cent.

**Q** What determines the amount of my annuity?

**A** Annuity rates are based partly on interest rates at the time you buy and partly on the overall amount of your pension savings. The more you have accrued, the higher your annuity payment will be. Women have higher life expectancies than men, so they usually receive less per month than a man on a similar pension. Insurers argue that they have to cover women for a longer period, so the differ-



A note of good fortune: Mrs Dashwood, in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, benefited from an annuity

## An annuity is a very serious business . . .

ence is made-up in the long-term. Underlying annuity rates, which are largely based on long-term government bonds, can vary from day to day. Geoffrey Bernstein of consulting actuaries Geoffrey Bernstein & Co says: "Life companies will take the risk that you'll live to 120, but they do not like to take risks on investments. If prices on long-term government bonds fluctuate, they will move annuity rates as and when their margins get eroded."

**Q** How much flexibility is there?

**A** You are not obliged to take up the annuity offered by the company that administered your original pension. You can, and should, shop around for the most attractive rate, taking into consideration any loyalty bonuses or penalties from your own provider.

At the outset, you will have to decide whether to opt for a

flat rate. Initially, you will receive more from a level rate annuity, but inflation will take its toll over time and your pension may seem less than generous over the years. Alternatively, you can choose an annuity that escalates at a set rate each year or that increases annually in step with the retail price index. These will offer less attractive rates in the early years.

Then there are with-profits and unit-linked annuities that provide an investment element. While these may offer the opportunity to earn more from your money, they also carry the risks associated with any stock market investment, so your income is not guaranteed. They tend to have annual management charges, as well as a bid-offer spread. Advisers only promote these schemes in conjunction with another, steadier, source of income.

Phased retirement annuities, where you split your annuity into segments rather than tak-

ing it all at once, were popular before the introduction of pension drawdown concessions. The new schemes allow you to defer buying your annuity while taking income from your pension fund.

**Q** When must you buy an annuity?

**A** In the past, you bought an annuity at the time you retired. Now, you can defer the purchase until you reach 75. This is an attractive option when interest rates are low. By deferring, there is the possibility of getting better rates later. If you defer your annuity, you can still make withdrawals from your pension fund, within certain limits set by the Inland Revenue. The amounts allowed will be based partly on the current rate for annuities. Checks will be made to ensure that you are not depleting your pension fund too quickly. People in company pension schemes can transfer the proceeds into a personal pension plan to

take advantage of the deferral process.

**Q** What are the disadvantages of deferral?

**A** If you delay taking your pension, you will either have to be able to live without the income, or draw income from your pension through a pension drawdown. There may be management and commission charges with a drawdown that will reduce the size of your ultimate pension. Furthermore, there are income withdrawal limits.

**Q** What happens to my spouse if I die first?

**A** You can cater for a spouse's benefit as part of your annuity purchase. This may mean a lower starting pension.

**Q** What if I should die with pension monies outstanding?

**A** Mortality risk is taken into account when calcu-

lating annuity rates. Those who die before reaching the average life expectancy will lose out while those who live far beyond their life expectancy will gain.

If you are worried about dying shortly after retirement you have several options. One is to buy an annuity which guarantees that your pension will be paid out for a set period — usually five or ten years — even if you die. Or you can opt for capital protection scheme that pays out the difference between income already paid and your original capital outlay. If you are in bad health, you can get an impaired life annuity to reflect your shorter life expectancy.

Smokers can also get favourable rates.

**Q** What are the charges?

**A** Any variation from a standard annuity comes at a cost. Fees vary, depending on the product. A standard annuity also has charges, but they are lower.

**Q** Do I have to pay tax on my annuity?

**A** Income from an annuity is usually paid net of basic rate tax, but not all of your monthly income is taxable. Some is considered a return on capital, and not taxed. Non-taxpayers can usually arrange to have annuity income paid gross. William Burrows, director of Annuity Direct, notes that, in general, higher rate taxpayers benefit from phased retirement annuities because they can use part of their tax-free cash each year to provide income.

**Q** How do I find the best annuity?

**A** Read the money pages and specialist publications and consult an independent financial adviser. An IFA should help you to find the best scheme for your requirements, but it is important to educate yourself first. A *Brief Guide to Annuities* is free from Annuity Direct. Age Concern's *Pensions Handbook* costs £9.95 from Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

**Where can I get advice?**

Specialist advisers include: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393) charges £49.50 for an open market service kit and 1 per cent commission.

The Annuity Bureau (0171 620 4090) charges £58.75 for initial consultation, refundable if you buy an annuity. Minimum fee: £350 plus VAT.

Geoffrey Bernstein & Co (0181 346 0707) charges £350 plus VAT for report, refundable if you buy an annuity. Commission is 1 per cent.

## Go for quality as bull run brings a rush to market

The recent confident

run of the London market has brought a steady stream of new issues, with a sizeable queue of would-be entrants building up behind.

One corporate financier said: "The market is very strong and there is a lot of money around. Under these conditions you tend to get a lot more companies floating. While there are good companies amongst them, investors need to focus on quality."

Large floatations include Orange, the mobile phones group, which published its pathfinder prospectus this week, while the Government is buffering Railtrack for its flotation which is expected to take place in May. Further down the line the politically sensitive flotation of British Energy is pencilled in for the summer, while Virgin Radio, Chelsea Football Club, Somerfield, the supermarket group, and Cliveden, the luxury hotelier, are among companies thought to be considering a FTSE listing.

A company normally floats in one of three ways.  Offer for sale: Private investors can apply for shares which are offered at a fixed price. Details on the company are given in a prospectus, and information on the offer is also advertised in national newspapers.

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Dealing in the Edinburgh based Macdonald Hotels are expected to begin on March 14 with pricing details to be revealed next week.

The company is joining via a placing and hopes to raise £25 million.

Three information technology businesses are going public this month. Data Sciences, a computer software company formed as a buyout from Thorn EMI, plans to raise around £40 million from a placing. FI Group, a software services business, is also joining via a placing and is expected to be valued at £60 million, while Triad, a software and systems consultancy, is raising £35 million via a placing with dealings set to begin towards the end of the month.

Stadium, the plastics and electronics parts maker, is expected to make its debut within a few weeks, while next week sees the debut of Visual Action, the film and television equipment business, which has been involved with productions ranging from Star Wars to Cracker. Commercial printing group Fulmar also has its eyes on a £40 million float in March.

CLARE STEWART



Visual Action star C-3PO

## Facts behind fixing an income for life

THIRTY-ONE years ago, André-François Raffray, a French lawyer, agreed to pay Jeanne Calment, then 90, a lump sum and £20 a month for the rest of her life on the condition that when she died he would inherit her house. The lawyer died at Christmas but, at 121, Madame Calment is the oldest person authentically recorded. M. Raffray's heirs are still paying for her first-floor apartment. Every Christmas, Madame Calment would send him the message: "Sorry I am still alive." And talking of records, Mme Calment has just put out a rap CD, based on the tales of La Fontaine.  More than £4 billion of pension funds are converted to annuities

every year as people retire from work.  The youngest age you can buy is at two. There is no upper limit, although the maximum for a pension annuity is 75. If you smoke, you get a better deal.  Impaired life annuities provide higher income for those with a life-threatening medical condition.

Standard Life sells more annuities than any other life insurance company, according to a recent survey. Standard Life says: "In most cases, our rates are the best, and on our pensions side in particular, we offer a greater degree of flexibility."

Falling annuity rates are not necessarily bad news. It means the value of pension funds has been rising.

Usually, between 70 and 75 per cent of a pension fund is used to buy a pension annuity.  The difference between the annuity rate, the various annuity offers made by life companies can be as much as 40 per cent.  If gilt yields fall 1 per cent then annuity rates fall about 6 per cent.  Under an old-style section 226 pension policy, the tax-free cash can be as high as 33 per cent for a 75-year-old, compared with 25 per cent for a personal pension.  Annuity quotes are usually valid for 14 days, so take care if annuity rates are falling.  In the past, annuities were paid by

the rich to reward employees as a way of providing for their relatives, such as Mrs Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility*, who received an annuity. Jane Austen wrote: "An annuity is a very serious business . . ."

New rules referred to as pension drawdowns allow you to defer your annuity until the age of 75.

Phased retirement or staggered vesting is another way of planning your pension.

You do not have to be married to be able to buy a joint-life annuity. Dependents, including handicapped children, can be included in a joint-life annuity.

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## Towards greater fairness for wives

The value of Prince Charles's pension is not likely to loom large in the royal divorce deliberations. The Inland Revenue pension contribution limits that constrain prince and commoner alike, mean that this asset will be insignificant compared to his other wealth.

For Charles and Diana, the news that peers had backed the campaign for pensions-splitting at divorce was merely a reminder that there are other failed marriages. But thousands of less exalted, but equally unhappy, households will be watching closely the fate of the peers' amendment to the Family Law Bill. This requires the division of pension assets at divorce, rather than at retirement. The financial condition in old age of divorced women now depends on the Bill's passage through the Commons.

Opposed to reform though "sympathetic" to the plight of women without careers who

divorce in middle life, are Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, the Social Security Minister.

The principal weapons in their defence are various sets of intriguing, but not necessarily convincing, statistics.

Take the £600 million figure thrown into the fray on Tuesday. This fearful sum is the tax revenue that will be lost each year if pensions are split. Closer inspection, however, reveals that this will be the cost if, not only divorced, but married couples opt to divide their pensions.

A divorced wife would be able to set her tax allowance against her share of her ex-husband's pension. The two Lord Mackays seem to presume that, envious of this tax advantage, those who remain together would eat the husband's pension in two. With the deft use of the wife's allowance and the lower tax bands, the yearly bill could be reduced by as much as £1,060.



**COMMENT**  
ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance  
Editor

Since the Inland Revenue would never smile on such a ruse, perhaps their lordships presume that contented couples would separate purely to gain a tax concession?

A decree absolute might reduce the income tax bill. But the sorts of couples who consult accountants would soon discover that divorce would also mean the loss of far more valuable capital gains and inheritance tax concessions. You can, for example, bequeath all your worldly goods to your spouse tax-free.

The National Association of Pension Funds,

which supports pensions-splitting, calculates that the tax loss (its figure is £80m) would be cancelled out by legal aid and social security savings. The hard-headed NAPF is interested not only in greater fairness for wives, but also the administrative ease of its members. They make a more persuasive case than the Government.

**Cheers, anyway**  
THE word millennium has a noble ring. It also conjures up visions of the humdrum of a party at which you hope to be celebrating the end of the 20th century. These two

associations are obviously the reason marketing departments are now attaching the word millennium to accounts, maturing in the year 2000 (see page 40).

The Birmingham Midshires Millennium account requires you to leave your money untouched until the next century and pays a fixed rate of 7 per cent. This is slightly below rates on variable rate tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas).

Investing in the fixed-rate Millennium bond is a pledge of faith in low inflation, leading to low interest rates. Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC Markets, believes that inflation will not return. He forecasts that the base rate in 2000 will be about 5 per cent, making the bond look quite attractive. His most pessimistic peers predict a rate of 7.5 per cent.

If they are all wrong, then at least there will be a party where you can drown your sorrows.



The numbers game: Hans Snook, Orange managing director

## Will investors in Orange tap into a bright future?

**Karen Zagor on some important considerations before signing up for action in the £2bn-plus float**

**M**ore details about the flotation of Orange, the digital mobile phone company, emerged this week with the publication of the company's 208-page pathfinder prospectus.

Orange expects the 325 million new ordinary shares to be valued at between £2.2 billion and £2.45 billion, with an offer price of 175p-205p a share. The anticipated offer price is about 15 per cent lower than most analysts had expected.

Dates for the UK retail offer have now been set. It will open on March 12 and close on March 22 with the exact share price to be fixed on March 27.

Individual investors will have to buy at least £1,000 worth of shares to take part in the launch. No special incentives are being offered to Orange customers, although Orange's 2,500 employees will be given 50 free shares each.

Is the lower offer price bad news for private investors? No. By pegging the launch to a lower price, investors are more likely to see their shares increase quickly in value. The company's current owners, Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace, will retain about 74 per cent.

Why was the valuation reduced?

Those involved in the sale say the lower valuation will improve the chances of the launch being a success. Others point out that rival mobile phone companies Cellnet and Vodafone have recently cut tariffs for their digital phone customers, putting pressure

impressive since its launch 22 months ago. With 440,000 customers, it now has more than 25 per cent of the UK digital phone market. Digital connections are clearer and better for transmitting data than the analogue service that provides the bulk of the business for Vodafone and Cellnet.

In an industry where customers are frustrated increasingly by convoluted pricing structures, Orange, with its easy to understand tariff structure, stands out. The competitive rates are likely to keep existing customers and there should be no problem in finding new takers since only 9.4 million Britons have cellular phones. The proportion of cellular phone users is expected to reach 20 per cent by 2000.

A research report by James Ross, of ABN Amro Hoare Govett, says "there is over £1.7 billion of potential upside in the company's value over the next five years".

What is the downside?

Orange is not expected to post a profit before 1998 and dividends are not expected before 2000. Analysts at NatWest Securities do not expect dividends until 2005. This means investors who need income should not rush in. It is also possible that the overall market will not grow as quickly as anticipated, or that an as yet unknown technology will make digital mobile phones obsolete. A price war could also eat into Orange's profits.

Will the final offer price fall within the expected price band?

There is no guarantee that the ultimate offer will be priced at 175p-205p a share. It is possible that the shares will be priced at a higher level if demand is very strong, and vice versa.

Is Orange a good bet for private investors?

Most analysts think the future is bright for Orange. The company's growth has been

on Orange. Market sentiment about technology stocks has also become less robust in the months since Orange announced its plans. How will the share price be determined? There will be a standard "bookbuilding" process between now and the offer's close. The company and its banking syndicate will sound out institutions to find how many shares they would buy at prices within the 175p-205p range. Information about which institutions could be long-term investors and which are in it for a quick profit will be noted. The offer price will take all of this into account. Will the final offer price fall within the expected price band?

There is no guarantee that the ultimate offer will be priced at 175p-205p a share. It is possible that the shares will be priced at a higher level if demand is very strong, and vice versa.

What is the downside?

Orange is not expected to post a profit before 1998 and dividends are not expected before 2000. Analysts at NatWest Securities do not expect dividends until 2005. This means investors who need income should not rush in. It is also possible that the overall market will not grow as quickly as anticipated, or that an as yet unknown technology will make digital mobile phones obsolete. A price war could also eat into Orange's profits.

Will the final offer price fall within the expected price band?

There is no guarantee that the ultimate offer will be priced at 175p-205p a share. It is possible that the shares will be priced at a higher level if demand is very strong, and vice versa.

Is Orange a good bet for private investors?

Most analysts think the future is bright for Orange. The company's growth has been

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# The pension that never was

I have recently received two letters from Barclays Bank Staff Pensions. Enclosed was a certificate issued by Barclays when I left a few years after my marriage.

I am rather confused as to why I do not seem entitled to a proper pension, having worked for Barclays for almost ten years from May 1960 [at 18] to December 1969 [at 27]. I thought that staff with five or more years' service were entitled to a pension.

It is difficult to understand why Barclays will not give me a pensions booklet and an estimate of the amount I will receive when I am 60. The letters suggest that my entitlement is only the sum shown on the enclosed certificate. Surely this should be increased for inflation at least. I am 53 and would like a full view of the amount of pension to which I shall be entitled when I am 60.

JUDITH RICHARDS, Shrewsbury.

## A QUESTION OF MONEY

How much will your pension be when you retire? This may sound a simple question your employer or pension provider could answer at the touch of a few computer keys. Unfortunately it is not always so easy, as this look at our pensions postbag shows (Sara McConnell writes).

*It is not surprising you were confused, as Barclays initially mixed you up with someone else when it first replied. In that letter it said staff had to complete five years' service and be at least 26 to qualify. This does not apply to you because these rules only came in 1973, four years after you left. To its credit, the bank has since apologised.*

*"In your case, your career at*

*Barclays began and ended before 1973 so older, less generous rules applied. You had to have worked at Barclays for at least ten years and be at least 30 years old before qualifying. You unfortunately fulfilled neither of these conditions so do not qualify for a proper pension.*

*Instead you will get an equivalent pension benefits payment of £10.25 a year, as Barclays was contracted out of the then state earnings related pension arrangements. This is not indexed for inflation so will be worth even less when you retire. As it is such a small amount, it will be paid by lump sum. But it says it cannot give an estimate of how much it will be. This depends on various factors including interest rates and long-term gilt yields when you retire and life expectancy rates. This information will be reduced to a formula to ascertain the size of your lump sum.*



Cold comfort: Judith Richards is entitled to £10.25 a year

## Tread carefully when toying with transfers

I am 60 years old and have no dependants. I work full time and am a basic-rate taxpayer. I am planning to retire at 65. My previous employer has a pension scheme and when I left, the pension was frozen as my present employer would not agree to its transfer, though both were with Legal & General. This pension will pay me £1,610 a year. I started a new pension with my present employer but four years ago it said it could not afford to continue with the scheme. It is being wound up but I do not know the value of this pension.

When this scheme closed I thought it best to start a personal pension. I chose Hearts of Oak and invested £4,500 of my savings in a lump sum in one plan in 1992. With tax relief the gross lump

sum is £6,000. I also opened a second Hearts of Oak plan and started investing £75 a month net (£100 a month gross). At the beginning of this year the £6,000 had a transfer value of £6,164. Would you advise me to carry on or even increase my £75 a month on the basis that I will at least get a tax break on my contributions?

GORDON DEGG, Stoke-on-Trent.

Mark Bolland, a fee-based financial adviser at Chamberlain de Broe, said: "If the pension you are set to receive from your previous employer is not index-linked, you could consider transferring it. You have to tread extraordinarily carefully."

"People in generous occupational

schemes should not transfer. But in this case if there has been no revaluation for inflation since 1982, there could be an argument for transferring to a personal pension. It is important to choose a scheme with low ongoing charges, such as Equitable Life, as you only have five years to go until retirement." He said Mr Degg could get a reasonable LBG transfer as this is a final-salary scheme with ten years' contributions. To save set-up charges, he said, the lump sum could be added to that from the previous pension in the same personal pension. He added that Hearts of Oak is not noted for better than average performance or lower than average charges.

A transfer value of £6,164 after four years represents a return of 3% of a

percentage point compound a year. You should be able to get a better return elsewhere than on the Hearts of Oak schemes. Hearts of Oak confirmed the transfer value and said the cash value without transferring would be 5 per cent higher. But it refused to comment on your case or release any other information about your policies.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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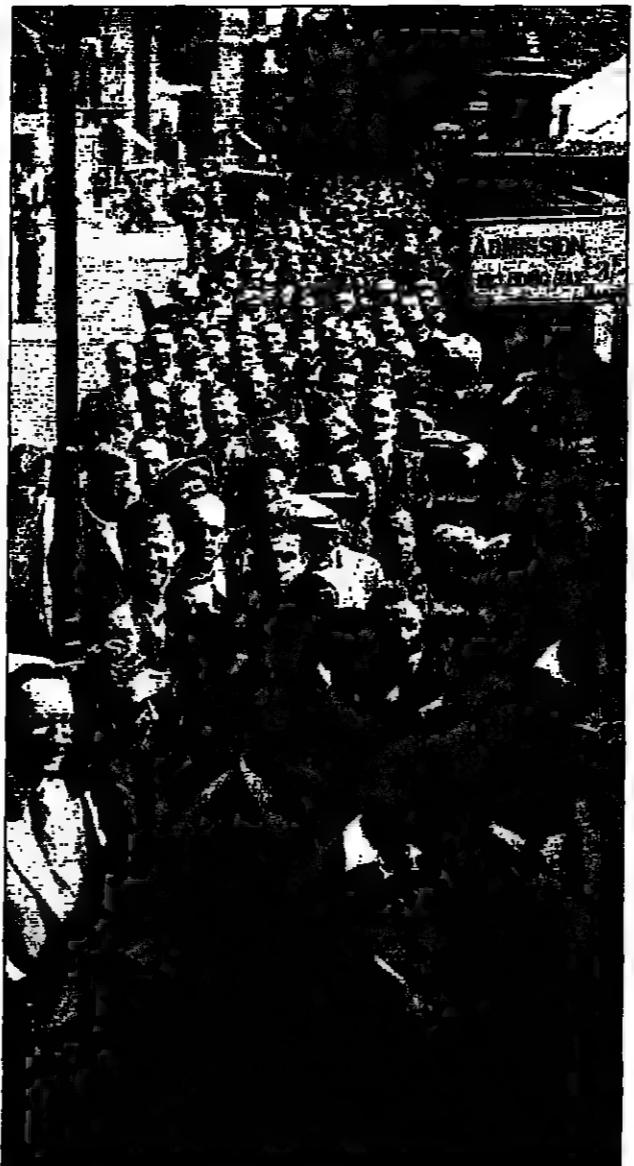
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## Timing it right will give an investment more pep

Caroline Merrell looks at three new trusts on offer amid warnings that it might not be the best time to buy

Schroders trust. "The fund is going to be quite aggressively managed. It will only hold around 30 to 40 stocks. Schroders have a reputation for looking at hundreds and hundreds of companies before deciding which ones to pick."

Those financial advisers who are concerned about the levels of the UK stock market would recommend personal equity plans with much more international exposure.

For example, Chase de Vere would consider putting its clients into an international PEP like the one offered by Fidelity. This has a choice of three different trusts — special situations, European and Far Eastern.

Mr Millward said: "The fund management group has excellent long-term performance." He pointed out that most of the rise over the past year in the UK market had been in the bigger companies. The special situations trust could invest in the companies that did not rise as much last year. European companies could also provide good growth prospects, he believes.

Chase de Vere also recommends an investment trust offered by Flemings. Fleming Worldwide trust is 45 to 60 per cent invested in UK equities, 10 to 25 per cent in international equities, and 20 to 30 per cent in high-yielding international bonds — emerging market debt.

The trust is designed to pay a 9.5 per cent yield. The yield will be generated by the ordinary income shares in the trust. The shares will return the investors' original capital in full at the end of Fleming Worldwide's nine-year life if the portfolio grows at about 5 per cent per annum.

Daniel Godfrey, Flemings marketing director, said: "The level of interest in the trust would seem to indicate that investors have taken the view that 5 per cent per annum growth from this type of portfolio is not excessive."

Mr Holland said that he favoured internationally diversified PEPs from fund managers such as Perpetual and Morgan Grenfell. "Those who like the Perpetual name, but who already have too high an exposure to the UK, could opt for its Growth PEP. It has a good performance track record and is invested in countries other than the UK."

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Money Marketing, 23rd November 1995.

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## The value of valuations

**Karen Zagor** finds out the form for those who want to know if a knick-knack is an objet d'art

**M**y father-in-law had no idea whether he was buying a pretty forgery or a priceless antique when he paid £30 for a *thangka* from a Tibetan refugee in Kathmandu in 1969. "I was told it came from a Tibetan temple, and I don't think they had the facilities in the refugee camp to make it themselves," he said when he gave it to us as a wedding present 25 years later. When we decided to get it valued, we had little to go on. Luckily, London is rich in resources for valuing art and other collectables, and it quickly became apparent that we would have no trouble getting information about our mysterious present.

Whether you have inherited a Gauguin from a favourite uncle or picked up an antique fountain pen from a flea market, there is someone willing to put a price on it. The definition of what is collectable is growing all the time. Guns and teddy bears are every bit as collectible as oil paintings, and just as easy to get valued. Before approaching a valuer, however, it pays to do a bit of homework. You should know as much as possible about the possession. A modern art specialist at an auction house says: "History is very important. It's important to know how long the painting has been with the present owner or in the family. We will also take into consideration the artist, the signature, the condition of the painting and any gallery or other labels on the back." Auction Houses - The four

main auction houses (Bonhams, Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips) all offer free valuation. Valuables can be taken in, or a photograph sent in. Unless you live close to one of the houses, sending in a photograph is probably the best first step, but the image must be clear. The dimensions of the object should be included, as should enlargements of any signatures. A Phillips specialist in Oriental art said: "We can usually tell quite a bit from a good photograph." However, a firm valuation may not be possible unless an expert has actually seen the object.

If you want an over-the-counter valuation, it makes sense to ring before leaving home to make sure the appropriate expert will be available. Brendan Lynch, head of Sotheby's Islamic and Indian art department was able to tell me a great deal about *thangkas* in general before breaking the news that mine was more of interest for its unusual iconography than for its actual value. He estimated that it was painted in the early 20th century.

If you have a sizeable collection or a few large, unwieldy objects, the auction house will send someone to your home for the valuation. Sotheby's says there is no set fee for this service; it is negotiable. Christies provides a printed, bound valuation document for those who pay to have a home collection valued.

While the auction houses provide their verbal valuation services for free, you will have to pay for a written valuation. Some, however, may rebate the cost if the item is auctioned within a certain time limit. When getting an object valued with the intention of selling, owners should consider its market.

Christies and Sotheby's have a core business and great knowledge of European masters. Phillips is geared more towards decorative arts and is good on guns. The specialists will usually be quite candid. Bonham W & F C Auctioneers: Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier St, London SW7; 0171-3900. Christies International: 8 King Street, London SW1Y 8QD; 0171-839 9060; or 88 Old Brompton Road, London SW7; 0171-581 7611. Phillips Auctioneers: 101

house full of a great mixture of things, an auction house can call on in-house experts in a wide range of areas. Independents can be a bit quicker because there is not such a large organisation to get into motion. Another difference is that auction houses are primarily interested in selling, while independent dealers are purely concerned with valuation. To choose an independent valuer look for members

Brendan Lynch, of Sotheby's, examines a *thangka*

New Bond Street, London W1 0AS; 0171-629 6602. Sotheby's Auctioneers: 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 2AA; 0171-493 5080.

**Independent Valuers** - The decision about whether to use an auction house or an independent valuer will depend partly on your requirements. Clare Pardy, production manager at Nordstern, the specialist art insurer, says: "If you have a

Museums - These can be a great source of information on the history and importance of

**Specialists can usually tell quite a bit from a good photograph**

valuables, but they will not be able to help with valuations. A spokeswoman for the Victoria & Albert Museum says: "We can't discuss valuations because we may be seen to be tweaking the market. But our departments do have opinions, so, if you have an interesting print or piece of metal work, they might be able to tell you a little about its history and how it was made." A museum will be able to say if

they are covered. They must be insured. The main art insurers: Nordstern, Hiscox (part of Lloyd's) and Chubb. Most people get specialist art cover through a broker, who will find the best value for the collection. "The main difference is depreciation after damage," says Ms Pardy. "Under normal contents cover, if a painting were damaged, the cost of restoration would be covered.

"Under our policy, we pay for any fall in value as a result of restoration. If the picture was in pristine condition and now needs to be lined, that can have a detrimental effect on its value. For anyone who is at all serious, that is something to consider."

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Bonus Builder II	£1pm	£100pm	6.50%
Target Shares	£1pm	£100pm	2.10%
Budget Style	£20pm	None	2.80%
Regular Savings	£1pm	None	5.10%
Super Saver	£1pm	£250pm	1.30%
Regular Savings	£1pm	£100pm	2.20%
Subscript Shares	£1pm	£500pm	4.50%
Regular Saver	£25pm	£150pm	5.50%
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Keepsafe Bond	£1.5pm	£150pm	7.00%
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4.25% Source: Moneyfacts



Even small savers can invest in equities regular as clockwork

### Sarah Jones examines the options open to small-scale regular savers

**F**oster & Braithwaite, the investment management firm, is doing its bit to promote Tony Blair's stakeholder economy with the launch of its regular savings plan. The F&B Stakeholder Savings Plan allows regular savers to accumulate a portfolio of holdings in F&B unit trusts for a minimum investment of £50 a month.

John Vincent, F&B managing director, said: "For many people, a regular savings plan is the means by which they can gain a stake in the equity market. The F&B Investment Trust Fund is really a portfolio of investment trust shares and provides a wide exposure to UK and overseas markets."

A £50 a month investment over the past five years (a total of £3,000) in the F&B Investment Trust would have netted £4,504. There is an initial charge of 4 per cent and an annual charge of 1.25 per cent. There are no penalties for stopping or changing the level of monthly contributions.

About three quarters of the 1,600 unit trusts currently on the market offer regular savings schemes. Minimum monthly investments range from £20 to £200. The major benefit, as providers see it, is called "pound cost averaging".

This is the averaging effect of putting the same pound amount into units each month. If the price of units falls, the pounds buy more units, so the average cost will be lower than the apparent average price.

Peter Edwards, of Premier Unit Trust Ltd, is not convinced by pound cost averaging, saying: "It's only good if the stock

market goes down. When the market goes up, as we all expect it to, pound cost averaging loses out. We prefer to tell people to accumulate cash in a deposit account, and when they have a lump sum, say £1,000, put it into a unit trust."

"It's human nature to sign up to a small amount each month and forget all about it. You can then find you have acquired too much in a second grade investment. Drip-feeding is not a sound investment principle."

If you are keen to get into equities through a monthly savings plan, it makes sense to go for a PEP. Morgan Grenfell, Perpetual, Schroders and Virgin Direct all offer such plans.

**B**uilding societies have been the traditional port of call for regular savers, but rates have been falling. When Bradford & Bingley launched its Monthly Saver account a year ago, it paid 8 per cent gross per annum. That is down to 7 per cent. The only large institutions that come near that rate are Nationwide's Bonus Saver (5.8 per cent) and Abbey National's Regular Savings (4 per cent).

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More savings, next page

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Postal accounts come in and out of the market like ships into harbour, always leaving with a plentiful cargo.

Only a month after opening, Cheltenham & Gloucester's Direct 30 account has taken in as much money as it needs, so customers have to be quick if they want to get on board.

Interest rates, on average, are 1.5 per cent higher on postal accounts than their branch-based alternatives because of less expensive administrative costs. At present, 19 of 79 building societies provide postal accounts, although the number is increasing.

To make deposits, customers send their account book with a cheque, usually using added the day it arrives.

Interest rates, on average, are 1.5 per cent higher on postal accounts than their branch-based alternatives because of less expensive administrative costs. At present, 19 of 79 building societies provide postal accounts, although the number is increasing.

Among the instant-access accounts on offer, Donna O'Shea, manager of Chase De Vere's Moneyline service, picks out West Bromwich Direct. At 6 per cent gross interest on £2,000, 6.25 per cent on £25,000, 6.5 per cent on £50,000, and 6.75 per cent on £100,000, West Bromwich is one of the highest payers. She also recommends Bristol & West Direct Savings at 5.5 per cent on £10,000, 5.75 per cent on £25,000, 5.8 per cent on £50,000, and 5.85 per cent on £100,000.

Postal accounts are often used by customers who have enough in their bank account or high street building society for day-to-day living and seek a safe and financially sensible home for the rest. For smaller amounts, Miss O'Shea picks Yorkshire's First Class Access account at 5 per cent on £1,000,



On average, interest rates are higher on postal accounts

cent on £25,000, 5.8 per cent on £50,000, and 5.85 per cent on £100,000.

Postal accounts are often used by customers who have enough in their bank account or high street building society for day-to-day living and seek a safe and financially sensible home for the rest. For smaller amounts, Miss O'Shea picks Yorkshire's First Class Access account at 5 per cent on £1,000,

5.1 per cent on £10,000, 5.2 per cent on £25,000, 5.45 per cent on £50,000, and 5.7 per cent on £100,000.

For investors prepared to lock their money away for a little longer, Miss O'Shea recommends Coventry's Postal 50 account offering an annual gross rate of 6 per cent on £10,000, 6.25 per cent on £25,000, and 6.5 on £40,000.

For smaller amounts, she picks Scarborough's 75-day account at 6.3 per cent on £1,000.

Bradford & Bingley's new Direct 90 account also deserves a look, she says. Savers can choose whether to receive interest monthly or annually.

They can earn 6.8 per cent gross per annum, or 6.6 per cent gross per month, on deposits between £15,000 and £29,999. They can earn 7.2 per cent gross per annum and 7 per cent gross per month on £30,000 and over.

Chase De Vere's Moneyline 0800 526091.

MORAG PRESTON

## Funds for the millennium

Caroline Merrell looks for value amid the latest marketing ploys

With four years to go until the end of the century, many building societies are taking the opportunity to unveil "millennium bonds". These are fixed or variable-interest products which will come to maturity just before the year 2000.

However, do these bonds offer a good deal, or are they just marketing hype?

Among the products on offer is a bond from the Birmingham Midshires Building Society.

This offers savers a four-year fixed-interest savings account, with the rate pegged at 7 per cent. The minimum investment in the bond is £5,000. Savers cannot touch the capital during the four-year period, but they can choose whether to take interest annually or monthly. Taking the monthly option means a lower income of 6.75 per cent.

The bond will be offered by the society until 26 April, 1996. Basic-rate taxpayers will get 5.6 per cent interest, while higher-rate tax payers will get 4.2 per cent.

National Savings has an equivalent five-year product which pays 5.6 per cent interest tax-free. If the bond is cashed in a year early, at the end of the century, for example, it will earn less interest — 4.76 per cent, making it a better deal for higher-rate tax payers than the Birmingham Midshires account.

Investing in a fixed-rate building society bond for

only three years, rather than to the millennium can also give savers a better rate of interest. Bradford & Bingley, for instance, is offering a 7.8 per cent fixed-interest account with a minimum investment of £10, while Bristol & West is offering an 8.3 per cent account, with a £5,000 minimum investment.

National & Provincial Building Society is offering a three-year bond which offers an interest rate of between 6 and 6.5 per cent depending on the amount of money invested. The net interest rate is between 4.5 and 4.87 per cent.

Another building society that is gearing up one of its accounts for those who are saving for the end of the century is the Ipswich Building Society. Minimum investment in the bond is £10,000 with a maximum of £75,000. However, the interest rate on this bond is variable and starts at 5.5 per cent for investments of between £10,000 and £25,000, rising to 6.5 per cent for investments of between £50,000 and £75,000.

According to John Whayman, managing director, the millennium bond "offers an attractive combination of high rates and withdrawal facilities. It is aimed particularly at those investors who wish to invest for a period but still have some access to their money. We are sure this combination will be very popular".

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\*The estimated gross redemption yield on The M&G Sterling High Interest Fund within The M&G PEP (The M&G Corporate Bond PEP) was 7.3% as at 16th February 1996. At that date the estimated gross distribution yield was 7.5%.

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that you've covered all the essentials. Accessible, practical and highly readable, it's packed with reliable and up-to-date advice on saving on tax in the future, rather than over-paying now and trying to reclaim later. Common misapplications and misinterpretations made by tax offices • homes, investments and pensions • how to work out what you owe the Revenue - whether you are employed, self-employed, out of work or retired. *Which? Way to Save Tax 1996-97* costs just £14.99 (P&P FREE). To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card number with expiry date) to Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP32, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

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6 out of 6 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance over 5 years. Positions are to 1st February 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested.

### Misrepresented whole-of-life policies account for 75 per cent of complaints

From Mr P. Kelly  
Sir, In her article "Long-term savers with a bad case of delayed shock" (Weekend Money, February 24), Caroline Merrell highlighted a problem familiar to Spice - Society for Policyholders Issuing Complaints Effectively.

Complaints about whole-of-life policies, misrepresented as ten-year savings plans, account for over 75 per cent of the inquiries to Spice. There is much evidence to suggest that, at best, many insurers turned a blind eye to this practice and, at worst, actively encouraged and facilitated it. Insurers, by giving whole-of-life contracts titles such as "Capital Accumulators", disguised the true nature of these products, making it relatively easy for dishonest salespeople to cheat

clients. Indeed, whole-of-life contracts make up an indecent proportion of the total policies sold by some insurers.

Anyone falling victim to such a scam should report the matter to the Personal Investment Authority. Under the PIA's voluntary scheme, even some pre-Act mis-sold can be dealt with. Those whose complaints fall outside the PIA's jurisdiction should consider taking legal action. Disputes involving amounts of £3,000 or less can be dealt with cheaply and quickly by some claims courts.

Yours sincerely,  
PEARSE KELLY  
(Chairman),  
Spice,  
53 Castlecaulfield Road,  
Donaghmore,  
Co Tyrone.

### A bank where no customer relationships exist

From M. Diddams  
Sir, On January 29, I made a transfer from my Midland 90-day Exchequer account to my Midland Bank current account. As I had not given the requisite 90 days' notice, I was charged £40 early-withdrawal fee. Fair enough.

Today I went to my local Midland branch and asked for a balance on the Exchequer account. This was given to me on a tatty looking printout which ended with the words "No customer relation-

ships exist". As I have banked with the Midland for the past 33 years, this came as a nasty surprise and prompts the question, how long does one have to bank with the Midland before being raised to the status of a customer and would this highly desired aspiration be speeded up if I became a bankrupt Tory MP?

Yours faithfully,  
M. DIDDAMS,  
21 Vincent Road,  
Sittingbourne,  
Kent.

The good news is - my life-sentence is 10 yrs  
The bad news is -  
My 10 yr policy  
is for my  
whole life



### How Pep charges are levied matters

From Mr W. Cound

Sir, Weekend Money Guide 3 (February 10) draws attention to the effect on the average Pep of management charges. Investors should also be aware of the method of levying the charge. If the charge is levied on the capital then this will gradually reduce the number of units available to produce income in subsequent years. It is like digging up a few trees each year rather than having a share of the crop.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM COUND,  
8 Orchard Rise,  
Olney, Bucks.

### Why we need to champion the small investor against friendly societies

From Mr C. Brabbins

Sir, I was delighted to read Caroline Merrell's article (Weekend Money, February 17) where she championed the cause of the small investor against the companies who hide behind the name of "friendly society".

In January 1986 my wife and I took out a double-plan with Homeowners Friendly Society and for the next ten years fed £200 each January into this plan. The 1996 sales literature projected a return of £5,560 after ten years.

This ten-year period has been one of the best for investment and yet all we received from them was actually £3,231.

I had expected to receive their cheque on February 1, having entered into a defin-

tive ten year contract, but in the event, had to phone Homeowners Friendly Society and insist on travelling the thirty miles to Harrogate to collect the money in person.

Their charges in the final year were 8.5% and they have refused to provide me with a record of their previous charges between 1986 and 1995.

However, in travelling to Harrogate I noted their elegant headquarters. They also sponsor horse races at the Cheltenham Festival.

In my opinion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer should relieve them of their so-called special status.

Yours faithfully,  
C. BRABBINS,  
13 Ashwood Grove,  
Horbury, Wakefield.

### When delay in receiving Tessa certificate is a matter of interest for all concerned

From Mrs T. P. Colwell

Sir, I read with interest articles you have lost on your Tessa by not investing from January 2, 1991, is £25.32". I did ask the branch manager how this equates to the maximum of £12,050 that a Halifax Tessa should have. He told me it would all work out on compound interest! Do you understand that?

Yours faithfully,  
MRS T. P. COLWELL,  
18 Concord Avenue,  
Chatham, Kent.

### When it pays not to surrender policy

From Mr J. Arthurs  
Sir, I read with interest the article in Weekend Money, February 24, on Eagle Star's abysmal surrender rates on endowment policies. Last week, I decided to surrender my policy after nine years into a 17-year plan. I was appalled at the quoted rate.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ARTHURS,  
19 Lamber's Field,  
Bourton-on-the-water,  
Gloucestershire.

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# THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## Revenue guides to self-assessment

The Inland Revenue has published several guides explaining self-assessment, the new tax system. A general guide, aimed at everyone who regularly completes a tax return, offers advice on how to complete the forms, plus the general principles of self-assessment. The booklet says that from April 1996, all taxpayers are lawfully obliged to keep records of income and capital gains and individuals will be responsible for their own tax affairs. A special guide and video, *Get Yourself Sorted!*, is available for the self-employed. An outline of the changes affecting employers from 1996-97 can also be obtained. Call the Revenue response line on 0345 161514.

■ Barclays is launching three personal taxation services designed to help taxpayers to cope with the Revenue's changes in tax assessment. From April 6, a telephone-based service, a 24-hour information service and a tax management service will be available to deal with tax concerns.

■ Help with self-assessment is also available in a booklet from KPMG tax advisers. The guide offers essential information on planning for the

changes and explains how self-assessment will apply to non-UK residents. Write to KPMG, 8 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8BB, price £6.

■ Perfect Personal Finance suggests the best way to approach money management, tackling topics such as budgeting and inflation. The 80-page book reveals how to balance savings and expenditure and at least £1,000 a year can be saved with effective personal planning. The book will be published on March 28, priced at £5.99.

■ The Royal Bank of Scotland is launching a new bank to incorporate its existing offshore business. The Royal Bank of Scotland International will offer a 24-hour off-shore telephone banking service. For more details, call 01534 285576.

■ Crest, the electronic share system, comes into operation on July 15, allowing faster and more secure settlement. Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie, the stockbroker and portfolio manager, has published a free guide explaining Crest and its implications for shareholders. Call 0171 248 4400.

LIZANNE ROSE

### GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME		
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	4.75
10,000	AIG Life	4.85
20,000	AIG Life	4.95
50,000	AIG Life	5.10
2 Years		
5,000	Final Assurance	5.25
20,000	Final Assurance	5.35
50,000	Final Assurance	5.50
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.50
5,000	Final Assurance	5.50
20,000	Final Assurance	5.60
50,000	Final Assurance	5.75
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.70
5,000	Final Assurance	5.75
20,000	Final Assurance	5.85
50,000	Final Assurance	6.00
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.00
3,000	Final Assurance	6.20
20,000	Abbey Life	6.40
50,000	Abbey Life	6.60

Source: Cheshirebank 0171 634 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

### SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01020 292444	Instant Acc	Instant	£100	4.80	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£2,000	6.00	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0345 374121	Dir Instant	Postal	£50,000	6.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Manchester BS 0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 Day	£25,000	6.55	Yly
Bradford & Bingley 0345 242828	Direct 90	90 Day p	£15,000	6.80	Yly
Alliance & Leic 0116 2717272	Prime 90 Deposit	90 Day	£25,000	7.10	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 Day	£5,000	6.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 Year	£5,000	7.30	F/My
Allied Trust Bank 0171 6260879		5 Year	£5,000	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 717505		5 Year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 Year	£25	7.25	Yly

### CREDIT CARDS' BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.94%	12.10%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.80%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

### PERSONAL LOANS' BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for Syrs with insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489986	14.00%	£114.41
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94

N.B. = 25 bonus if account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate, OM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Sources: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 577)

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 577)

### PIERS' LARGEST LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size %	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	0.95	£15K+	90	Rate fixed to 31.1.97
0800 100117				
Northumbrian	1.19	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.5%*
0800 591 500				
Yorkshire	1.39	to £150k	98	6% discount 8-mths, 2% discount 18-mths
0800 378836				
Brent				
Midland	4.49	to	95	5% discount for 1 year
0800 494699				
West	1.98	£15K+	90	5.50% discount for 12 months
0800 400996				

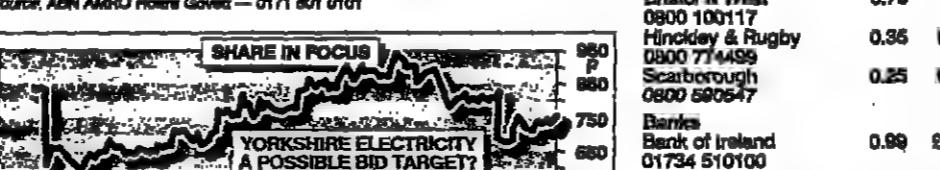
### LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size %	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	0.95	£15K+	95	6.54% dec-6 mths, 2.50% dec-5 mths
0800 100117				
Northumbrian	2.49	none	95	5% discount to 3% 4.67%
0800 591 500				
Yorkshire	3.44	£30K+	95	3.80% discount for 1 year
0800 378836				
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.75% discount for 6 months
01734 510100				
TSB	3.75	£15K+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year
0500 758000				

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bay's Guide. Further information: Bay's Guide, 01753 880482.

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 577)

### SHARE IN FOCUS



YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY A POSSIBLE BID TARGET?

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 577)

### ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE

ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE INSURANCE	Product	Price	Term	Rate
100% GUARANTEED INCOME	100% G	£1,000	10 years	10.00%
100% GUARANTEED INCOME	100% G	£1,000	20 years	10.00%
100% GUARANTEED INCOME	100% G	£1,000	30 years	10.00%
100% GUARANTEED INCOME	1			

Unit Trust Managers Ltd	Set	Buy	Wkd	Ytd	Wkd %	Buy %	Set	Buy	Wkd	Ytd	Wkd %	Buy %	Set	Buy	Wkd	Ytd	Wkd %	Buy %	Set	Buy	Wkd	Ytd	Wkd %	Buy %	
ABG UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD																									
OTLIS 254 785	206.80	218.98	-1.20	0.22																					
Central Amer	537.00	576.70	+ 2.30	2.35																					
Central Amer	537.00	592.50	+ 2.30	2.35																					
UK Growth	547.00	592.50	+ 2.30	2.35																					
UK Growth	547.00	592.50	+ 2.30	2.35																					
UK Growth	547.00	592.50	+ 2.30	2.35																					
Global Equ	180.60	195.50	+ 1.00	0.50																					
Global Equ	180.60	195.50	+ 1.00	0.50																					
Global Equ	180.60	195.50	+ 1.00	0.50																					
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# Toogood To Be True looks good value

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

WHEN Jim McGrath, the Channel 4 and *Timetform* expert, succumbed four years ago to the inspired sales patter of Peter Easterby and bought a strapping young horse with a modest pedigree, he told the canny Yorkshire trainer: "If this is half as good as you say, it is too good to be true."

The name stuck and Toogood To Be True soon justified the Easterby hype. Within three weeks of the deal being agreed, he won his first race and at Doncaster today the eight-year-old sees the twelfth and most significant victory of his career in the £30,000-added Pertemps Great Yorkshire Chase.

After Toogood To Be True had developed into a useful handicap hurdler, McGrath and his joint-owner, Reg Griffin, held out hopes that he might progress into a Sun Alliance Chase candidate last season. However, having won two novice chases, at Doncaster and Market Rasen, he failed to improve as anticipated and appeared to have a back problem.

After his final start last term, Peter Niven told the owners there was something wrong with the horse and, on the advice of John Francome, they sent him to Mary Bromiley. The renowned equine physiotherapist diagnosed trapped nerves in the horse's neck, incurred when he was cannoned into by another runner while winning at Market Rasen.

"He had been carrying the injury for five races and so

took quite a long time to get right. Mary had to make him stretch again on the near side, which he wouldn't do. She used side reins and put weights into some of his boots so he worked much more one side rather than the other," McGrath explained yesterday.

The end result was Toogood To Be True returning to the Easterby yard a sound horse, which explains his much-improved form over fences this season. After two victories, he put up his best performance at Haydock eight weeks ago when failing by a neck to hold the progressive

**RICHARD EVANS**

Nap: MIZYAN  
(3yo Warwick)

NB: Toogood To Be True  
(4.05 Doncaster)

Smith's Band. The handicapper has raised him a generously-looking 3lb for that excellent effort.

Today's feature race was originally scheduled for January 27, but the cold snap forced a postponement which has proved a blessing for Toogood To Be True. Not only would he have been forced to miss the race, because of a bruised foot incurred earlier that week, but the race today is a quarter-mile longer than the originally planned encounter, which will bring his stamina into play.

Although any rain would

undoubtedly enhance his chances, the likely strong gallop should make this a thorough test. Toogood To Be True also appeared to benefit from being ridden more patiently last time and looks decent value at around 11/2.

When Squire Sill obliges for this column by landing the Tote Gold Trophy last month, Cebate ran a cracker from 12lb out of the handicap to find a good fourth at 6/1.

Despite carrying top weight in the Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle this afternoon, the five-year-old still looks fairly treated. Charlie Mann reported his hurdler to be in "cracking form" yesterday and Cebate can take this at the main expense of Tejano Gold and Spring Saint before lining up for the County Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, Full Of Oats looks handicapped to complete a trio of staying chase successes at Warwick in the Crudwell Cup Handicap Chase (2.50). However, the best bet on the card is reserved for Mazyana in the Blackdown Handicap Hurdle.

Jack Banks's hurdler is best over 2½ miles on good ground and a victory at Fakenham last term confirmed his liking for a sharp circuit. After a ten-week break over hurdles, Mazyana ran particularly well behind Cheryl's Lad over an inadequate two miles at Doncaster last Saturday. The return to a longer distance and more patient riding tactics should pay off.

Today's feature race should be a safe bet for Toogood To Be True. Not only would he have been forced to miss the race, because of a bruised foot incurred earlier that week, but the race today is a quarter-mile longer than the originally planned encounter, which will bring his stamina into play.

Although any rain would



Danger Baby clears the last fence on his way to victory at Newbury yesterday

## Zamhareer can spring surprise

NEWBURY

BBC1



**TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION**

**1.55 BLAZE AWAY** (2.00) (5 runners)

1. 310 BLAZE AWAY 6 (2.0) (P Madens) 1 Balding 5-11-10  
2. 290 PIRATE 49 (7) (Scholes) Park Rashid 5-11-10  
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4. 365 PIRATE 49 (7) (Scholes) Park Rashid 5-11-10  
5. 071-082 WILMAN 6 (2.0) (P) Whinney M Hamond 6-11-10  
6. 32044 CAMILLA (Mrs J Convey) 6-11-10  
7. 32045 DOLLY 6 (2.0) (P) Whinney M Hamond 6-11-10  
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Saturday portrait: Rob Wainwright, by David Hands, rugby correspondent

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

## Peaceful passions that invigorate Scotland's doctor in the hothouse

Captaincy is a delicate art. Come to it early and, whatever you do, there will be mistakes of youth and inexperience. Will Carling knows that; indeed, he has had them tied round his neck like an albatross at times. The Scotland rugby union selectors have tended to go the other way and choose mature men.

Take only the handful in the past few years: Finlay Calder, granite of countenance, inherited the mantle at 30. David Sole was 27 when his quietly passionate approach prevailed, notably against England in 1990, and, when he retired, Gavin Hastings, at 31, stepped up.

Now that he has departed, Rob Wainwright's elevation at 30 appears almost preordained. This season has set him firmly on the rollercoaster of publicity that rugby union now attracts, and never more than in the past fortnight, which every Scot hopes will terminate at Murrayfield today with a victory over England to secure only the fourth grand slam in Scottish rugby history.

Yet you would never have guessed at Wainwright's destiny in his teenage years. Born in Perth, the fourth child (and the only boy) in a family of five, neither his school nor his university presumed that captaincy, or even an international career, lay ahead for the tanky youth with a passion for the countryside. Even now, his stature of 6ft 1in and 15st 7lb does not make him a giant in his position of flank forward.

"He was a competent rugby player," Bill Crow, who coached the young Wainwright at Glenalmond College, said. "No more, no less. Wainwright's father, Jim, a Blue as a back-row forward at Cambridge in 1956, was a teacher at Glenalmond and, for a period, warden (headmaster) of the school where his son captained the first XV in his third year. The Scotland schools selectors, though, did not come calling and he went to study medicine at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

The rugby authorities at university recall a somewhat startling

introduction to a tall, pony-tailed young man with green hair — the result of an accident with a bottle of dye in what his family describe as his New Romantic phase — but Cambridge began the maturing process that has ultimately brought Wainwright the position that he cherishes.

Not only did he spend six years studying, but he also joined the Army, who sponsored his last three years at Cambridge. "It was," Wainwright recalled drily, "an inspired move." Had it not been for his Service career, Wainwright would have found it impossible to combine a first-class rugby career with general practice, though, with little more than a year of his present commission to run, the long-term future remains in doubt.

**'I believe patriotism to be a very good thing provided it doesn't get out of hand'**

Yet the portents of a late developer and for a ferocious competitor are there for those who seek them. All his sisters have found an outlet in sport: Holly won a rowing Blue at Cambridge, Sasha a half-Blue for cricket and hockey, Alison runs half-marathons and Jo, his youngest sister, is a physical training instructor in the Royal Navy. His mother, Jean, took to marathon running at the age of 50.

Cambridge soon discovered his qualities. When a knee injury hindered his rugby, Wainwright took up boxing and won a Blue at heavyweight, disposing of a somewhat larger opponent by skipping lightly about the ring in the first round and providing the knockout blow in the second. An athlete, too, he went on the dreaded, early-morning fettle runs with Dr Mike Turner, the veteran cross country runner who managed the

Great Britain team at the 1988 Olympic Games, and it was invariably Wainwright who was on Turner's shoulder.

"We have all been fairly athletic from an early age," Wainwright said, with the degree of understatement that has come to characterise his public utterances. Not for him the show of temperament, the verbal storm, but the laconic throwaway line and, in team gatherings, the gradual build-up before the release of emotion on the field.

Nobody should doubt Wainwright's fierce patriotism, even though much of his life has been spent in England. At Cambridge, playing with London Scottish and, latterly, West Hartlepool before the Royal Army Medical Corps moved him from Catterick Bridge to Edinburgh over the Christmas period, where he now combines GP work in a city practice with service at an army medical centre.

"There is more of a national identity with the Celtic nations," he said. "The chip on the shoulder, call it what you will. It can be unhealthy, but I believe patriotism to be a very good thing provided it doesn't get out of hand." Thus, Wainwright can be seen on the field, moving among his troops, a touch of the hand here, a quiet word there, keeping the motivation alive, the spirit strong.

He might have been a determining influence in the side before this season but for injury and the strong hand from which Scotland could pick at loose forward. Broken limbs and muscular strains have been the bane of his career and even this season he has been forced to visit the same clinic in Munich as Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, the international athletes for manipulative treatment to his back.

He has played international rugby at lock, as well as in all three positions of the back row, but it is at blind-side flanker that he has come into his own.

"Rob's awareness from his own playing position is good," Ian McGeechan, who coached Scotland's 1990 grand-slam XV, said. "He's strong on the ball and leads



by example, and that's exactly the sort of captain Scotland needed after Gavin Hastings. He works himself very hard so as to be in every part of the field, and captains like that are like gold dust."

All Scotland, however, waits to see if Wainwright's tactical appreciation matches his drive and presence about the field. He admits that he is hardly aware of the scoreboard; decisions taken are those that appear to fit the situa-

tion. Thus, at a critical moment against Wales in Cardiff a fortnight ago, Wainwright called the back-row move that earned Gregor Townsend the decisive try, rather than opting for the dropped goal from close range.

"We knew the try could be scored and I thought that was the way to win the game, and get seven points rather than three," he said. Since Scotland won by two points, Wainwright was entirely

justified, yet, in the heat of victory, his frank assessment of Scotland's difficulties and his appreciation of a gallant effort by Wales brought immense credit upon both him and his team.

The image is further enhanced by Wainwright's affection for the countryside. Cameras will invariably catch him with his dogs, or his hawk (though that has recently flown away), or with his fishing rod. "I love the natural world," he

said — one that he looks forward to sharing with his wife, Rosanne, and his children, Douglas, 14 months, and Natasha, six months.

First, however, comes the unnatural hothouse of international sport. The Wainwright family will be out in force today, his parents returning from their new home in Kenya to see if their own late developer can set the seal on a Scotland season that began in doubt but may end in glory.

## Britain offer threat to Kenyan dominance

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DO THE Kenyans have another victory in them? We are not talking cricket here. We return now to their proudest sport: cross country. Kenya will be seeking their eleventh successive men's world team title in South Africa three weeks from now. There is about as much chance of them losing to Great Britain as ... well, Kenya beating West Indies at cricket.

However, listening to David Clarke, the Great Britain team manager, one can almost visualise nine British tracksuits on the top of the rostrum in Stellenbosch on March 23, if not at the top, somewhere near.

As the British trials at Stakford, Northumberland, tomorrow should indicate, Clarke has plenty of bating. "The Kenyans always seem to be unbeatable, but our first three — Andrew Pearson, Keith Cullen and Jon Brown — are not in awe of them," he said. "Rob Denmark, Adrian Passey, Gary Staines, John Nuttall and Jon Solly have all run well against the Kenyans."

That still leaves half a dozen others, notably Chris Sweeney, Martin Jones and Tim Dickinson, each anxious to be part of the strongest British team since bronze medals were won in 1992. "There is absolutely no reason why they should not get medals," Clarke said.

Among leading Britons, only Paul Evans, Eamonn Martin and Spencer Duval have ruled themselves out.



Pearson: fine season

ly the same path, to the point that their bond is now almost the telepathic one of twins.

The scores of 11 points apiece for England against Russia on Wednesday, they both want to improve on those modest tallies in front of an expected 1,000 crowd.

Whatever happens between London Towers, Gardiner's club, and Sheffield Sharks, the team that Huggins represents, the two players will have a drink together afterwards.

It has been ever thus, since they first played for East London Royals, Bracknell Pirates and travelled to

## Benn intends to leave no doubts

BY SRIRAM SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL BENN should underline his status as the world's second-best super-middleweight when he defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) title against Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, in Newcastle on Saturday.

The champion, who had a controversial win over Malinga, wants to leave no doubts about the outcome this time. Indeed, since Benn wants to be seen as a realistic contender for the No 1 super-middleweight position, held by Roy Jones, the International Boxing Federation champion, it would not be surprising if he disposed of Malinga inside the distance.

Jones is the only man to have stopped the South African — who has had considerable experience in a career spanning 14 years and 49 contests — knocked him out in six rounds. If Benn can improve on that, his supporters will be clamouring for a match against Jones, even though, at the moment, it seems impossible to arrange because rival television companies are involved.

Not only does Malinga say that Jones would stop Benn in two rounds, but he is convinced that Benn will not get past him to further his case for a bout with Jones. Malinga promises to stop Benn in five rounds.

Of all the disputed decisions that Malinga has received, the one against Benn in 1992 angers him the most. "That was a disgrace," Malinga said. "I beat him easily, and he

knows it. That's why it has taken him four years to give me the return that he promised after our first fight. He looks a shot fighter; I can't see any way that he can beat me."

Malinga did have Benn in trouble around the fifth round, and no doubt he thinks that he can hurt him again; but, while Benn has become a far better and wiser boxer since that meeting, Malinga appears to have lost much of his old resilience.

He did not impress against Trevor Ambrose, a journeyman from Leicester, but Malinga claims that that performance was because he had been out of the ring for five months. He says that he is much sharper now because he has trained harder than before and is motivated.

Malinga is really a light-heavyweight and, if, in reducing, he has not lost his natural strength advantage, he could pose serious problems for Benn the further the bout goes. Benn has always had to work against bigger men like Lenzie Morgan, Mauro Galvano, Nicky Piper and Malinga.

Benn, who has been training with Frank Bruno in Tenerife, said about his first contest with Malinga: "I thought I nicked the fight for the first six rounds and it was close after that, but look where I am now and where he's gone from there. I've trained really hard for this fight because I know he believes he can beat me. This time I intend to knock him out, big time."

## Beaten Anglo-Brazilians have excuses off expat



**SIMON BARNES**  
On Saturday

This dire scenario is taking place in baseball, where the target is essentially Platonic, existing only in the perfection of the umpiring mind. Even as pitchers flex their rotator cuffs in spring training, they aim at a newer and larger strike zone. The old strike zone started at midway between armpit and belt, and went to the top of the kneecap. Now, it goes further: right down to the bottom of the kneecap. The idea is to encourage batters to have a go at the ball, rather than waiting for balls misses — that entitle them to walk to first base.



### Fine mess

All British sports stars are obsessed by two ambitions: 1. To earn as much money as American sports stars, and 2. To get the media off their backs.

As Michael Atherton put it at the recent notorious press conference: "Will someone remove this button?" Well, if sports stars want to learn from the United States, they should realise that, in the American view at least, these twin ambitions are incompatible. Albert Belle, one of the top baseball sluggers, is part of the I'm-so-great-I-hate-the-media tendency. At the World Series last year, playing for Cleveland Indians, he screamed abuse at Hannah Storm, the NBC television reporter. He has just been fined \$50,000. He is refusing to pay, and faces suspension.

**Moving target**  
How about making bigger, fatter stumps so that the bowler has more to aim at?

### Out for count

The other week, this column reported the mid-life crisis of Nino Benvenuti, the former world middleweight boxing champion, who walked out on his life to go and care for lepers in Madras. Two months on, he is back. "I must thank the lepers for what they have given to my life," he said. "The experience has brought me closer to God." Benvenuti is now seeking election as a member of the National Alliance, which is headed by the notorious Gianfranco Fini, a politician whose principal activity is

constant refrain: "I am not a neo-fascist." The lady doth protest too much.

**Passing the hat**  
Greg Norman, whose ambition is to take golfing clothes into a new dimension of hideousness, is seeking, as ever, to achieve this next-to-impossible task by means of self-publicity. His latest stunt has been to try to play a round with Sir Donald Bradman, the greatest batsman that ever drew breath. However, Bradman turned him down, perhaps in fear that he would be asked to wear one of Norman's gaudy hats. The Melbourne newspaper, *Sunday Age*, commented: "Norman should have tried to woo Bradman with appearance-money. It works for him."

### Bitter bit

Raymond Illingworth's style of leadership, as England cricket manager, has long included overt and covert sniping at his captain. I wonder what Illingworth thinks about people who snipe at him. Sir Colin Cowdrey, at the launch of Mike Gatting's testimonial year, said in the course of a speech that "sixty-year-olds are out of touch with modern-day cricket" — and he meant it, by God.

### Famous five

Get writing. The hunt for Wisden's five cricketers of the year is up and running. Predict the editor's selection of the players who did most to enhance the 1995 English season, and send the list to me — remembering, of course, that no player can win the honour twice. The five closest to the editor's selection win a copy of *Wisden 1996*. Closing date is March 9, so get moving.

## Cup final separates the twin towers of basketball

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

HOWEVER much Roger Huggins and Andy Gardiner have in common, which is a great deal, one thing is for sure — the smile of recognition and the fleeting touch of hands with which the 28-year-old basketball opponents will start the National Cup final tomorrow will be forgotten once the tie starts at the Sheffield Arena.

"At some part of the game, we'll be banging together," Gardiner said. Since their teenage years, when their friendship was formed, the careers of the two players have followed virtual-

ly the same path, to the point that their bond is now almost the telepathic one of twins.

The scores of 11 points apiece for England against Russia on Wednesday, they both want to improve on those modest tallies in front of an expected 1,000 crowd.

Whatever happens between London Towers, Gardiner's club, and Sheffield Sharks, the team that Huggins represents, the two players will have a drink together afterwards.

It has been ever thus, since they first played for East London Royals, Bracknell Pirates and travelled to

Hawaii to study at Hawaii Lower College and Hawaii Pacific University, where they gained their degrees in social sciences and met the ladies in their lives.

Gardiner, the best man at Huggins's wedding to Heidi 14 months ago, said: "We're as close as brothers, but that friendship will go out of the window on Sunday. I'm excited to be playing against Roger in such a big game, but, at the same time, I want him to miss a couple of shots."

Huggins said: "I want Andy to play well, but not too well. You've got to

consider the bragging rights over the summer. I don't want him to go back to Hawaii, with me, saying: 'We beat you this and that.' They return to Hawaii each year, mainly to spend time with the families that hosted them during their studies.

If there is a discrepancy, it is in their heights. Huggins is 6ft 7in, an inch taller than Gardiner, who has also yet to match his friend's feats in being named player of the year and captain of his country, which was Huggins's dubious privilege for the first time on Wednesday, when England fell to their crushing defeat in Moscow.

# Optimism in short supply among struggling rivals

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN DUBLIN

FOR all the talk of style and entertainment, it is a simple victory that Ireland and Wales long for this afternoon at Lansdowne Road. This would give them some breathing space to contemplate their progress, which another failure might delay. Both teams need a boost.

Ireland must conclude, if they had ever been persuaded otherwise, that the five nations' championship is a severe and heartless playground. In January, there was a spirit that encouraged predictions of not only a revival, but also an outside chance that they might challenge for the championship, even if this was born more from the weaknesses and doubts that were perceived among the rival nations.

There was so much that was open to question: with Scotland, who had been given an awkward couple of tests before the championship began, and with the coaching and playing personnel changes of France. In all this restlessness, Ireland might make capital, but this optimism was largely inspired among outsiders, who had drawn too many hasty conclusions from Ireland's resounding 40-point victory against Fiji and a more modest one

against the United States in rain-soaked Atlanta.

The resurgence failed to materialise, first against Scotland, and most emphatically when they lost by a record score in Paris, where they were further discredited by the actions of Peter Clobesky.

Ireland must ponder whether their fortunes would have been different had their confidence been bolstered by success in their opening game, which they must have thought then — and regret even more so now — that they could have won. Little separated them, yet Scotland are challenging for the ultimate prize today. Ireland quite the opposite. On such slender threads do the accomplishments of a team hang.

Wales, for their part, are aware of this, too. The difference, however narrow, in the final score is magnified for the winners and losers as they anticipate the next encounter. Ireland and Wales are feeling the weight of the psychological baggage of failure.

Wales know that, for all the enterprise shown by Robert Howley, the fleet-footed intrusions of Justin Thomas, the silky passes of Leigh Davies and the voracious appetite of Gwyn Jones — all on show

"I realise that a victory sooner rather than later is necessary, but, in our overall plans, it should not be interpreted as earth-shattering," he said. Cobner is aware of the need for patience, to enable the team to mature, but equally understands that continued failure could depress the team's enthusiasm.

Control will be necessary against an Ireland team that will need to recover credibility after Paris. There must be fire in the belly: the "Irishness", as Barry McCann, the former Ireland stand-off half, described it, needs to be restored to the team. This afternoon, before their own kind and after the bitter sting of Parc des Princes, is the time to show it.

\* denotes captain  
Replacements: 16 K P McCullin (Bective Rangers), 17 P A Burke (Berk Constitution), 18 C Saverio (Sale), 19 P S John (Dungannon), 20 H D Hurley (Old Wesley), 21 T J Kingston (Dolphin).

## TODAY'S TEAM IN DUBLIN

## IRELAND

9 Mason (Omel)  
8 P Geoghegan (Bath)  
J C Bell (Northampton)  
M Field (Merton)  
N K P J Woods (Blackrock Coll)  
D G Humphreys (London Irish)  
N A Hogan (Terenure College)  
N J Popplewell (Newcastle)  
A T H Clerke (Northampton)  
P S Wallace (Blackrock College)  
D S Corkery (Cork Constitution)  
G M Fletcher (Cork Constitution)  
J W Davidson (Dungannon)  
W D McBride (Merton)  
V C P Costello (St Mary's College)

Replacements: 16 K P McCullin (Bective Rangers), 17 P A Burke (Berk Constitution), 18 C Saverio (Sale), 19 P S John (Dungannon), 20 H D Hurley (Old Wesley), 21 T J Kingston (Dolphin).

## WALES

15 W J L Thomas (Llanelli)  
14 I C Evans (Llanelli)  
13 L B Davies (Neath)  
12 N G Davies (Llanelli)  
11 W T Proctor (Llanelli)  
10 A C Thomas (Bristol)  
9 R Howley (Bridgend)  
1 A L P Lewis (Cardiff)  
2 J M Humphreys (Cardiff)  
3 J D Davies (Neath)  
4 E W Lewis (Cardiff)  
5 G O Llewellyn (Neath)  
6 D Jones (Cardiff)  
7 R G Jones (Llanelli)  
8 H T Taylor (Cardiff)

\* denotes captain  
Replacements: 16 G Thomas (Bridgend), 17 N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), 18 A P Moore (Cardiff), 19 S Williams (Neath), 20 L Musters (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea).

## Loughtonians seek leading edge

OLD LOUGHTONIANS are aiming to get back among the leaders in club hockey with six points available from two National League matches at Chigwell (Sydney Friskin writes). They play Barford Tigers today and St Albans tomorrow. They can expect tough opposition from the Tigers, who beat Teddington last week, but could find the going easier against relegation-threatened St Albans.

Teddington and the former away to Canterbury-Guildford, in third place, are ready to capitalise in their match at Stourport.

At Hightown, the leaders of the women's league, re-enter the league fray this weekend for the first time since December, only to discover that they must travel to Clifton and then trek all the way back to Doncaster tomorrow for an AEWHA Cup tie.

Both Southgate, the leaders, and Cannock, in second place, have difficult obstacles to surmount, the latter at home to

Warwara Zelenkaja gave Russia its first women's World Cup victory when she won the two-heal race yesterday. Heidi Zurborgen, of Switzerland, finished third.

## Street secures second world downhill prize

PICABO STREET, of the United States, clinched her second consecutive World Cup downhill championship when she finished second in a sprint downhill race in Narvik, Norway yesterday. She has an unbeatable lead in the standings with one downhill race left in the season. Street also the women's downhill world champion in Sierra Nevada, Spain, last month — the first American to do so.

Warwara Zelenkaja gave Russia its first women's World Cup victory when she won the two-heal race yesterday. Heidi Zurborgen, of Switzerland, finished third.

## Hylton bows out

ATHLETICS: Mark Hylton yesterday decided not to risk a groin strain and withdrew from the 400 metres race in the Great Britain team for the European indoor championships in Stockholm next week. Hylton, 19, the European junior champion, follows Melaine Neef and Tony Jarrett out of the team named on Wednesday. Kent Ulyatt replaces him.

## Unstoppable Catling

RUGBY UNION: A flurry of points in the final quarter earned England a 44-9 win in the student international with Scotland at Inverleith yesterday. Chris Catling, the Exeter full back, brought much of the damage against a Scotland side playing together for the first time this season. Catling and Fraser Waters each scored two tries with a fifth falling to Matt Allen.

## Double success for Hall

BADMINTON: cf702 Darren Hall, of Essex, scored two of the best wins of his career by beating Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen, the bronze medal-winner at the Olympic Games and the world championships, and then Hermawan Susanto, the 1995 world championship runner-up, to reach the semi-finals of the Swiss Open in Basle yesterday.

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# New lighthouse points way for England

IAN STEWART

## FIVE NATIONS'



David Hands meets the new boy hoping to deny Scotland's lineout jumpers



Archer receives a few helping hands during a lineout training session yesterday

**M**anned lighthouses around the country are being gradually phased out and Martin Bayfield doubtless has sympathy with the keepers. Bayfield, English rugby's own 6ft 10in lighthouse over the past four years, makes way for another today after 31 caps and an established place in the international hierarchy of lock forwards.

The greater the reputation of the player discarded, the greater the obligation upon the one who succeeds. Nobody need remind Garath Archer of the demanding role that faces him at Murrayfield this afternoon, when he wins his first England cap amid the clamour and hubbub of Scotland's thrust towards the grand slam.

Yet the pleasure that he will take from the occasion is intense — not only the personal satisfaction of an ambition achieved, but also professional pride since Archer is in the process of leaving the Army to become a full-time rugby player. "I have been dreaming about this game ever since I was selected," he said.

Not that Archer believed initially that he had been chosen. Parked on the motorway alongside a punctured tyre on the way to squad training at Marlow, he thought that his leg was being pulled when encouraged to move himself as swiftly as possible because the team could not train without him.

Yet precocity has always marked his rugby career. He

was born in South Shields in 1974, three years before the apogee of his father's playing career: Stewart Archer played for Westoe and Gosforth, for whom he appeared on the wing in the 1977 Cup Final, scoring a try in the victory over Waterloo.

The son followed the father's footsteps, pausing only to fit in a spell with Durham City, where Craig, his younger brother, plays flanker. Garath attended Durham School from where he won representative honours, a year young on each

occasion, for England's 16 and 18 Group sides. He also claimed the dubious distinction of being sent off as a 15-year-old, and was dismissed again playing for Newcastle Gosforth against Bristol in a league match two years ago.

So the playing talent has

long been apparent, together with the restless energy which Archer — who has received two yellow warning cards this season — has yet to curb completely. The England hierarchy, however, has faith and, only yesterday, Mike Slemen, who has coached him for the North and England A, extolled his virtues.

"I was told he might be a problem when the North toured in South Africa, but he was no problem at all," Slemen said. "He has tremendous athletic ability, great physical strength and I think he stays very cool. He doesn't stand back from anybody, but his approach is very positive, he works hard, he has good hands and he will run until he drops."

**A**reher's name remained firmly in selectorial notebooks when he left school. He appeared in England's colts and under-21 teams and, last year, made the first of ten appearances for England A alongside Simon Shaw. That has been one of the great ironies of English rugby: Shaw was earmarked as an international prospect from the moment he made an impact in England's midweek team on tour in South Africa in 1994.

Archer moved from Newcastle Gosforth to Bristol last spring to join him, save that, by then, Shaw had been sidelined by a knee injury. The plan was for Archer, 6ft 6in and 18st 6lb, to be Bristol's front jumper with Shaw in the middle, but the injury forced Archer into the position that he now occupies for England.

The England lineout in the championship this season has been lamentably inefficient and the management, believing that Bayfield could not throw off a technical fault in his jumping that which gave his opponents an advantage, decided to give Archer his chance in harness with Mark Regan, his club hooker. "It's a great boost to have my clubmate and good friend in the side," Archer said.

"We have established a great understanding and hardly lost any of our own ball. Now, I have to focus on the England game. I want to make the position my own."

## Parrott powers into semi-final

**J**OHN PARROTT safely reached the semi-finals of the European Open snooker tournament for the sixth time in eight years when he convincingly defeated Dave Harold 5-1 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta, Malta, yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Parrott, from Liverpool, the winner of the inaugural tournament in Deauville in 1989 and again a year later in

Lyons, this afternoon meets Joe Swail for a place in the best-of-17-frame final tomorrow, with a first prize of £60,000 at stake.

Parrott, looking for his second world ranking event triumph of the season, after winning the Thailand Classic in October, shared the first two frames before compiling a decisive 59 break in the third, added the next two and finished strongly with a run of 77.

Parrott, a reliable overseas campaigner, having won titles in eight countries, attributes his relaxed frame of mind to the presence on this trip of Karen, his wife, and infant son, Josh.

"I have heard people on the circuit say you should never bring your family to work, but I don't believe that," Parrott said. "I am not aching for them like I do most of the time when I am away."

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Evs Ireland 12/1 Draw Wales 4/5  
Today, Lansdowne Road, Kick-off 3.00pm.

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7/2	1-5 pts	7/2	1-5 pts	7/2	1-5 pts	7/2	1-5 pts
4/1	6-10 pts	4/1	6-10 pts	6/1	6-10 pts	4/1	6-10 pts
8/1	11-15 pts	8/1	11-15 pts	12/1	11-15 pts	6/1	11-15 pts
18/1	16-20 pts	16/1	16-20 pts	25/1	16-20 pts	10/1	16-20 pts
33/1	21-25 pts	28/1	21-25 pts	50/1	21-25 pts	20/1	21-25 pts

16/1 Drawn match

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11/1 Dods	14/1 Catt
11/1 Guscott	14/1 Hastings
11/1 Joiner	14/1 Jardine
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Return of Richards can tilt balance of power away from expectant Murrayfield

## English resolve may deny Scots

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF SPORT were a natural progression of events, then Scotland could be reasonably assured that, by night, rugby's union's grand slam, the five nations' title, the Calcutta Cup — the whole shooting match — will be resting safely in the vaults at Murrayfield — as safely as the predicted £8 million split-off to the local economy from the 20,000 supporters arriving in Edinburgh.

Only England stand in the way of the Scottish dream of a fourth grand slam to set aside those of 1925, 1984 and 1990. Only England? Only the team that, a year ago, won the grand slam itself by beating Scotland, and which has lost only once to the Scots in the past ten meetings. Only the team that, according to Jim

## FIVE NATIONS'



Championship table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	3	0	0	81	38	6
France	3	2	0	1	74	41	4
England	3	2	0	1	55	30	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	55	47	0
Ireland	3	0	0	3	20	61	0

RESULTS: France 15 England 12, Ireland 10 Scotland 16, England 21 Wales 15, Scotland 14 Ireland 14, France 45 Ireland 10, Wales 14 Scotland 15

REMAINING MATCHES: Today: Ireland v Wales, Scotland v England. Mer 16: England v Ireland, Wales v France.



The Scotland players, from left, Peters, Campbell, Wainwright and Jardine, have a spring in their step during training yesterday

Telfer, seldom appears over the horizon in anything but substantial strength.

Telfer, the Scottish Rugby Union's director of coaching, has drummed into his players that England's perceived fallibility means nothing. As an addendum, he will have mentioned that three out of four championship wins will not earn a place in the history books, not if England or, more likely, France, are galloping past to win the title on points difference. Yet those wins have served to build a great well of confidence in team and supporters alike. From the moment that Scotland won a potentially difficult opening game in Dublin, their momentum has been bubbling.

"We got off to a good start on what has proved to be our best-balanced display," Telfer said yesterday. "To win your first game, away, is a tremendous advantage, and that may be what England have suffered from."

Scotland have been living proof of the power of positive thinking, never more so than in beating Wales after a match

in which they retreated, tactically, from the invention that characterised their earlier games against Ireland and France. For that reason alone, their numerous well-wishers believe that they can earn and deserve victory in the Royal Bank International today.

Should they win, Bryan Redpath and Gregor Townsend, the half backs, will take much of the credit. Redpath has recovered fully from his bruised back and will fulfil both his role as scrum half and as the eyes and ears of Rob Wainwright, the captain. Wainwright's leadership by example, Redpath's the sure hand on the tactical tiller, leaving Townsend to set opponents, and sometimes his own players, on their heels.

Yet will England let them do so? There has been a lack of direction this season, but, when they felt that there was no alternative to a simple game-plan — against France in Paris — England came very close to overcoming their inexperience, most notably at half back. What they have done once, away, they can do again.

Scotland, they will not do so against any northern-hemisphere opponents.

There is a deceptive confidence about the squad, deceptive because, thus far, it has not always been justified by events. Yet again we are given to understand that the prepa-

ration has been first-class and that the squad, to a man, believes that it came close to breaking its bonds against Wales at Twickenham.

"I believe this side has a huge amount to offer," Will Carling, the captain, said. "It's a new, young side. You wouldn't expect it to play to its potential yet." What any England supporter would expect, however, is a degree of efficiency that has been lacking this turbulent season, a tactical approach that maximises the strengths of the squad and does not overreach its capabilities. That is why Dean Richards, the most down-to-earth of players, is back.

Richards has the feel for the game that Ben Clarke, the player he supplants as pack leader, has yet to develop. Nor does his presence necessarily dictate that England play a slow, plodding game. Richards, it may be remembered, took part in England's outstanding display against Australia at Twickenham in 1988, and in that distinguished effort against South Africa in Pretoria in 1994. He was there

for the integrated performance against Western Samoa during the World Cup last year, which Jack Rowell regards as England's best display under him.

What Richards represents is control, the authority that may assist Matt Dawson to play in the style that won him selection in the first place — a style that asks for more questions of a defence than he has yet demonstrated. England this season have asked notably few questions, save when their centres found ways through the Wales midfield. They have had a month now to set a new examination paper.

If this match is to be won anywhere, it will be in the mind. Scotland have created a feel-good factor, while England have appeared to operate in a mental fog. Today, England could find sufficient clarity to deny Scotland the prizes that their achievements so richly deserve.

Magnus Linklater, page 22; Wainwright portrait, page 50; Archer takes bow, page 51; Irish poacher, page 51

## Dallaglio needs to put shackles on Townsend

Rob Andrew highlights the problems facing England in tackling all-conquering Scots

If this season has demonstrated anything, it is Scotland's ability to make the most — more than the most — of what they have. To a degree, the quality of their team has been predictable, but the unknown quantity was the performance of Gregor Townsend at stand-off half.

Townsend has brought a new dimension to Scotland's play and has been responsible for much of their success, notably in Ireland and against France. Therein lies England's problem today, because Townsend and Bryan Redpath, at half back, have been the linchpins of Scotland's season and that is where they must be stopped.

It will be fascinating to see how England cope with this problem at Murrayfield. Wales showed the way by squeezing the Scotland halves and, if England can put on an even greater degree of pressure, then we may see a different Scotland. They can do this in an individual and a collective sense. I would tell Lawrence Dallaglio to mark Townsend very tightly, almost to the extent of forgetting anything else. Dallaglio has bags of pace and he can baulk Townsend, perhaps stopping him behind the Scotland forwards and giving England a platform.

Even before the ball reaches Townsend, England can do a lot. They must spoil Scotland's lineout possession to start with; Scotland are adept at getting second or third touch on lineout ball and England must reduce that, or get through the lineout to ensure that Redpath gets as little clean possession as possible.

They must also attack Scotland on their own scrum ball, by driving or wheeling, anything to put Redpath on his heels and reduce the possibility of back-row moves. England will be well aware that Redpath is so small and quick on the break that he can almost run under the tackles of big opponents and, if he does get over the gain-line, then Scotland are into their rucking game, the ball will be in Townsend's hands and anything can happen.

At the same time, England must offer a physical game, just as we always did against any France side that included Pierre Berbizier at scrum half. We would be in Berbizier's face all the time, putting him off his game and, this afternoon, Scotland must be made aware that, whichever alley they choose to run in, they will hit a white brick wall.

This can be done only through good organisation. Now that Dean Richards has returned to the team, he will be doing a lot of talking. Dallaglio thinks well on his feet, anyway, and Ben Clarke has enough experience to know what he is about. I would never leave Richards out, so long as you accept that he is not a Zinzan Brooke or a Tim Gavrin; he is Dean Richards with all his individual strengths around which you can build. He also has to urge



Townsend: linchpin

## Keegan stands up for Asprilla

By PETER BALL

NEWCASTLE United are not going to punish Faustino Asprilla, their new £6.7 million signing, they are going to defend him against all charges. As the club broke its diplomatic silence yesterday on the elbowing incident involving Asprilla, their Colombian striker, and Keith Curle at Maine Road a week ago, Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, announced: "The club view is that it is an FA matter now and we are in their hands."

"We are not going to punish him because you saw what happened with Manchester United and Cantona. They punished him and then the FA added further punishment on top — so we'll leave it to them."

Keegan made no attempt to condone Asprilla's flying elbow during the game or his gesture with his head at Curle, the Manchester City captain, after the final whistle, but turned the case into an attack on "trial by television".

"I shall stick by him if I don't defend him, who will?" Keegan said. "I don't think you can defend the two incidents as such, but, if we are going to have trial by television, the FA are going down a very, very dangerous road."

"The BBC have highlighted two incidents concerned with one player. There was one other incident, at least as serious, of which no mention has been made. We will go down to Lancaster Gate with the video of the whole match and show them things that happened which were at least as serious."

Master Gallit, page 47  
Draper's rise, page 47



Maguire will miss Cheltenham Festival

## Maguire rues unlucky break

ADRIAN MAGUIRE and Norman Williamson, two of the brightest talents in National Hunt racing, were yesterday ruled out of the Cheltenham Festival, which starts a week on Tuesday, after sustaining injuries in separate incidents.

Maguire broke his right collarbone in a fall at Newbury; Williamson suffered a further dislocation to his right shoulder when riding out on the Lambourn gallops. These are bitter setbacks for both men, who have been through a difficult 12 months.

Maguire, 24, missed Cheltenham last year after the death of his mother. His season has been blighted by injuries, the latest of which is expected to sideline him for up to 21 days. It is the third time that he has fractured his right

collar-bone. Williamson has ridden just twice since he broke his leg in a spill at Sedgefield in October. Having dislocated his right shoulder at Newbury on February 10, he was to have his comeback mount yesterday after a week of schooling at Kim Bailey's stables, but his troublesome shoulder returned to haunt him as he attempted to draw his whip. He is to undergo surgery early next week and will be out of action for four months.

Williamson, 21, won four races at the Cheltenham Festival last year and finished the season with his best haul, riding 130 winners. He completed the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup double, aboard Alderbrook and Master Oats, respectively, to match the rare Fred Winter feat of 1961.

Bailey, who trains both horses, has approached Richard Dunwoody to partner Alderbrook and Jamie Osborne for Master Oats, but both jockeys have prior commitments to Fortune And Fame and Flashing Steel. A decision on the former's participation in the Champion Hurdle will be made on Monday.

Maguire's projected book of Cheltenham rides was the envy of his colleagues. He is retained by David Nicholson, the trainer who expects to saddle 25 runners over the three days. Nicholson was last night in contact with Charlie Swan, Ireland's champion jockey, and Richard Johnson, Nicholson's conditional jockey, will also be given his chance.

Racing, pages 48, 49

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Republican machine in South Carolina toils to rescue Dole's faltering campaign

## Buchanan plays on old prejudices in Southern citadel

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

IT WAS a gambit straight from the campaign manual of George Wallace, the former Governor of Alabama, who stood in a school door in 1963 and declared blacks would never enter.

Yesterday, before dozens of television cameras, Pat Buchanan stood at the great gates of Charleston's Citadel military academy and vowed that under his presidency no more women would enter that venerable, all-male institution.

Scores of uniformed cadets who skipped classes to greet their hero whooped and cheered in the rain as he denounced "left-wing lawyers" in Washington who forced the state-financed Citadel to accept Shannon Faulkner last summer. Miss Faulkner lasted just six days, most of them in the infirmary, but three more women are now suing for admittance.

"In my first week in office I will call those fellows at the Justice Department and say, 'Listen: as of today you are changing sides. You are on the side of the Citadel, or you are going back to Berkeley,'" he declared.

Mr Buchanan's defiant demagoguery may cost him a few women's votes into today's critical South Carolina primary.



### US PRIMARIES

insistence on flying the Confederate battle flag over its statehouse.

He has gloried in his forebears who were Confederate soldiers. He has deplored the disparagement of General Robert Lee, the Confederate general, in modern school textbooks. He has shared a stage with Lester Maddox, the racist who was elected Governor of neighbouring Georgia in 1967 after chasing blacks

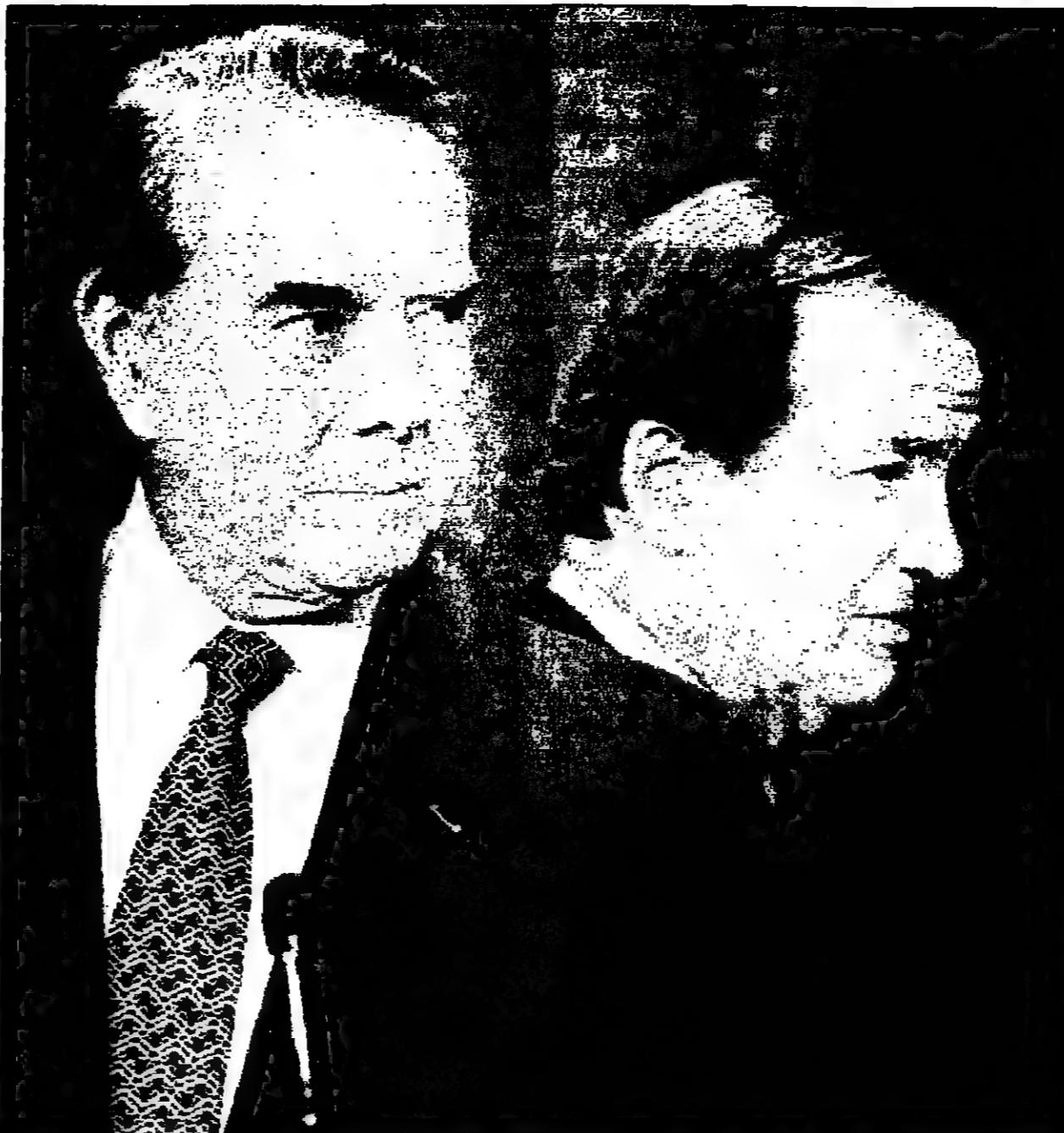
from his restaurant and then closing the business rather than desegregate it. He has pledged to restore the charitable status that Washington took away from a Christian fundamentalist college in South Carolina because it barred inter-racial dating.

Mr Buchanan is running an extreme campaign, but the stakes in today's primary are extraordinarily high. Robert Dole hopes a big victory will burst the Buchanan bubble, restore his own front-runner status after several disastrous weeks, and give him a huge boost before the six other southern primaries. Conversely, a Buchanan victory would be a near-mortal blow to Mr Dole's battered candidacy.

Today's result could also kill off Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor who has yet to win a primary. Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, also looks set for a disappointing result but has the money to survive.

Final polls showed Mr Dole ahead, and South Carolina's entire Republican establishment is working to deliver the state for him, but much will depend on the Christian conservatives who comprise up to half of the vote.

Leading article, page 23



Robert Dole, left, and his rival, Pat Buchanan, square up for a debate in Columbia, South Carolina, before today's primary



Basulto: converted to doctrine of Gandhi

## Cuban exile pilot takes non-violent path to oust Castro

FROM DAVID ADAMS  
IN MIAMI

JOSÉ BASULTO, the Cuban exile pilot who will today lead a fleet of aircraft and boats from Miami to a ceremony at the spot where a Cuban MiG jet downed fellow fliers a week ago, used to believe that military means were the only way to defeat Fidel Castro.

That was before he began reading about the works of Martin Luther King and studying the non-violent methods of Mahatma Gandhi. Now he dismisses Miami's handful of warrior exiles, who spend their spare

time at makeshift military training camps in the Everglades, as "useless for all practical purposes". Instead, Mr Basulto preaches his own brand of non-violence designed, he says, to encourage a peaceful civil opposition movement inside Cuba.

Acting as such at today's ceremony at sea, he says, help to show Cubans that there are ways to confront the Castro regime. "By taking risks ourselves, we have to show the people in Cuba that, if they are willing to do the same, they can win back the rights Castro has taken away."

Critics call him a provocateur who hopes to spark an international

conflict that would lead to American military intervention in Cuba. To avoid that, President Clinton ordered the US Coast Guard to escort today's sea and air ceremony, where prayers will be said for the four dead fliers, all members of Brothers to the Rescue, the Miami group of voluntary pilots founded by Mr Basulto.

The White House, taking every step to ensure a peaceful demonstration, has warned Señor Castro not to interfere in the protest service. The Administration has insisted that the defiant memorial for the pilots must take place in international waters and threatened action against

any American aviator penetrating Cuban airspace. Angered by what it regards as further provocation, Cuba has demanded that Washington prevent the ceremony, although it says it will not intervene as long as the exiles remain outside its 12-mile limit.

Given Mr Basulto's past record, Cuba has reason to be suspicious of the motives of Brothers to the Rescue. Trained by the CIA in preparation for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, Mr Basulto was infiltrated into the island as a radio operator shortly before the force landed. When it failed — betrayed, Mr Basulto believes, by the Kennedy Administra-

tion — he escaped by jumping a fence at the US base at Guantánamo Bay.

He returned to Cuba in the 1960s on commando-style raids by boat, on one occasion firing rockets at a hotel on the Havana waterfront housing Russian advisers. But increasingly he came to realise that armed struggle was futile and that neither the CIA nor the US Government could be trusted.

His final turn away from armed warfare came in the early 1990s when, moved by the plight of Cubans trying to leave the island on flimsy rafts, he developed the idea for Brothers to the Rescue.

## Kevorkian tells court of his tears

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN: Dr Jack Kevorkian took the stand yesterday at his trial for assisting suicide, saying he sometimes cries after watching people die but feels obliged to help to end their pain. "My desire is to aid this suffering human being as I would any suffering entity," he said. "When I witness the suffering, I must do something." Dr Kevorkian said that he had never wanted his patients to die and had persuaded a number of them to seek a solution other than suicide. (AP)

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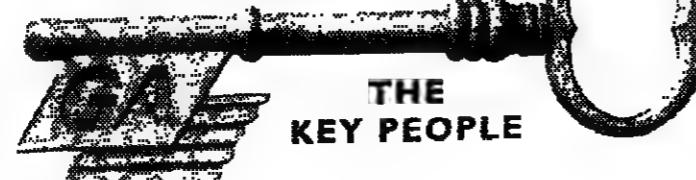
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# Spanish voters set to exorcise the ghost of Franco

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

SPAIN seems certain this weekend to elect its first right-wing Government untainted by the legacy of Franco.

The old dictator's ghost has haunted modern Spanish politics, to the profit of the Socialists and the dismay of the conservatives. But when 30 million Spaniards vote for a new Government tomorrow they will confirm that the ghost has been exorcised.

"A vote for the Right is a vote for Franco," was a refrain that secured the last elections for Señor González three years ago. This time, too, the Socialists have played the Franco card — relentlessly, and with little imagination — but to much lesser avail.

"No pasará" — "they will not enter" — said Señor González, speaking of the Popular Party at a recent rally, in echo of a cry employed by the Republicans in the Spanish civil war. "We will enter," responded José María Aznar, with panache, at a later meeting in Valencia. "Señor González talks only of fear and bitterness. He talks of a Spain which does not exist to a Spain which does not believe him."

The Popular Party leader has a point. His party is as far removed from the legacy of Franco as it is possible to be — a legacy Señor Aznar described recently as "profoundly harmful for Spain" — and is almost exactly as a

party of Tory "wets" would be. His strength, of course, is due largely to the weakness of Señor González. Scandals have hit the Socialists at an astonishing rate, in waves as varied as the exposure of State-run death squads to the more basic, old-fashioned theft by ministers, bank governors and police chiefs. Unemployment, at 23 per cent of the workforce, is Western Europe's highest.

## González talks of a Spain which does not exist to a Spain which does not believe him

But Señor Aznar deserves credit for putting to rest Spain's fear of "the Right." He is sober — almost to the point of dullness — courteous and unprepossessing. Learning important lessons from his 1993 election defeat, he is today slicker with the media and more pithy in his responses to provocative questions.

Yet his moderation has generated its own policy contradictions. He has assured Spanish voters that he will

neither raise taxes, nor cut welfare spending. Social security, however, is Spain's major problem, and the clearest proof that the country is living well beyond its means. Señor Aznar cannot, realistically, leave it untouched.

Sensing an unrevealed programme behind the election promises, Spain's pensioners are likely to remain loyal to Señor González. The financial and industrial sectors, as well as the employers' federation, have lined up to lend Señor Aznar their support. Deep down, they reason, must surely lie a commitment to economic growth and balanced books.

To govern on his own, Señor Aznar needs at least 176 seats out of the 350 in Congress. Opinion is divided on whether he will reach that magic number. Antonio Fontán, the former president of the Senate and now editor of *La Nueva Revista*, Spain's best respected conservative journal, told *The Times* the Popular Party would win up to 180 seats.

Many others disagree. In the more likely event of his getting fewer seats than an absolute majority, Señor Aznar would have to rely, as the Socialists have done since 1993, on the parliamentary support of the nationalist Catalan and Basque parties, which have revealed little of their plans.



Felipe González waves to supporters with Catalan flags in Barcelona

## Tribunal charges Serb general

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

ĐORĐE ĐJUKIĆ, the Bosnian Serb general whose arrest by the Bosnian Government last month nearly undermined the Balkan peace process, was yesterday charged with crimes against humanity by the international war crimes tribunal.

The general, 60, is a close aide of General Ratko Mladić, the Bosnian Serb military leader, who was in charge of logistics for the Bosnian Serb Army. He is accused of aiding in the shelling of civilians in Sarajevo throughout the three-

and-a-half-year siege of the capital which killed more than 10,000 people. He is only the second of 53 indicted criminals to be in custody at The Hague.

Because he oversaw the transfer of weapons from Serbia to the Bosnian Serb Army and was in charge of supplying the front lines, the prosecutors speculated that General Đjukić could implicate President Milošević of Serbia in committing war crimes. They also hoped he could play a key role as a witness against

Milan Vujić, a Belgrade

lawyer representing the general, ridiculed the indictment. "This contains one fact that General Đjukić is in the Bosnian Serb Army," he said. "If that is all they have, we can get the trial over today."

■ Zagreb: Ante Gudelj, 48, a Croat convicted of a murder that helped to touch off the Serb-Croat war in eastern Croatia in 1991, has been extradited from Germany, newspapers reported. He was sentenced in 1994 in absentia to 20 years in prison. (AP)

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# Gorbachev aims to inject ideas into anti-Yeltsin battle

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, the former Soviet President, confirmed yesterday that he would be standing for the Russian presidency in June, despite universal predictions that he is

more energetic and dynamic. The playwright Aleksandr Gelman argued in the weekly *Moscow News* this week that Mr Gorbachev would be an ideal President because he was not interested in power for its own sake. "I am sure if Gorbachev was elected the President of Russia, he would carry out his duties more successfully than any other current candidate." But he went on to say that he had no chance of winning.

If little else, the former Soviet President will inject some new ideas into the presidential debate. He said yesterday a top priority should be to abandon Moscow's current policy on the breakaway republic of Chechnya and negotiate directly with the rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Mr Gorbachev has been laying the ground very carefully for his re-entry into active politics. He made a series of trips to the provinces and published his memoirs. The book has already raised a stir about the allegations Mr Gorbachev makes about the sacking of Mr Yeltsin as head of the Moscow City Communist Party in November 1987. According to Mr Gorbachev, Mr Yeltsin stabbed himself in the chest in his office with his desk scissors in an act of despair on November 9, two days before the sacking.

In Mr Yeltsin's own version of the incident in his memoirs, he says: "On

9 November I was taken to hospital with a severe bout of headaches and chest pains. My body had been unable to withstand the nervous strain and I

had suffered a physical breakdown."

Mr Gorbachev will be hoping to

## Paris honours TV's Columbo

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN PARIS

PARIS: Peter Falk, the actor who plays Columbo, the dishevelled TV detective yesterday became the latest American to be awarded France's highest arts honour (Ben Macintyre writes).

After Tina Turner, Sylvester Stallone and a host of other US performers, Falk, 69, was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters.

"Columbo" is so popular in France it has entered the language — *un Lieutenant Columbo* means a particularly dogged investigator.

in the mountains near the Austrian border, has been living in fear after a series of murders in which all the five victims were shot in the head in the evening.

A MAN believed to be the serial killer who terrorised the small north Italian town of Merano for the past month died yesterday when police stormed a farmhouse two miles from the town.

There were reports that the alleged killer had shot himself before the police moved in. A note found by the body read: "You were too late." The killer was said to be a tall, blond man with a blue rucksack on his back: a blue rucksack was found next to the

body when police entered the farmhouse yesterday.

Police also found the 22-calibre gun thought to have been used in the killings. The farmhouse had been set on fire and the body of the alleged killer was partly burnt, along with other evidence.

Police had been called to the scene following the discovery of a body of a man aged 58 in a nearby hut. But when the police arrived they were fired on from the farmhouse, and a fierce gun battle followed in which one policeman was killed.

## Suspected killer dies in siege

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN PARIS

A MAN believed to be the serial killer who terrorised the small north Italian town of Merano for the past month died yesterday when police stormed a farmhouse two miles from the town.

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## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### BANNOCKBURN OR CULLODEN...?



Battle is joined for rugby's Grand Slam showdown between Scotland and England. Tomorrow, Stephen Jones and Hugh McIlvanney report from

Murrayfield, plus Ben Clarke and Scotland captain Rob Wainwright describe the explosive action from the players' view

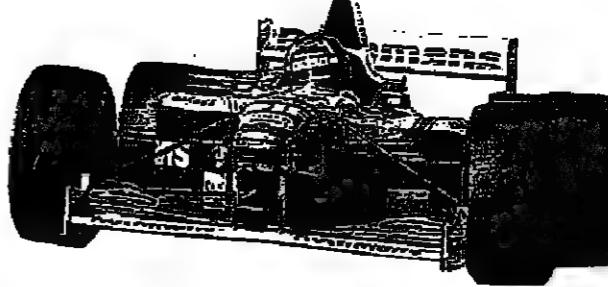
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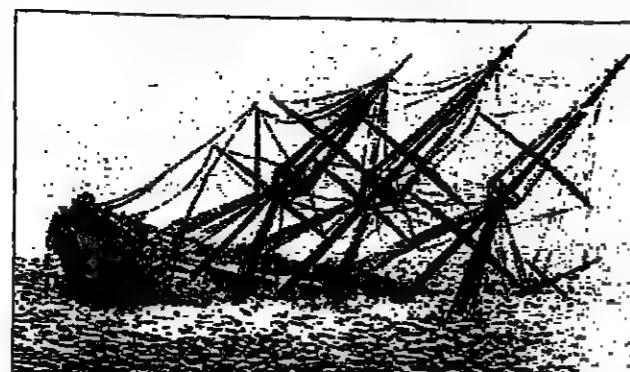
## Ocean may yield clues to mutiny on the Bounty

By DES HOUGHTON

A TREASURE hunt is under way off the Australian coast for clues to one of the most infamous episodes in British seafaring history.

The wreck of HMS *Pandora*, which sank in 1791, has already given up scores of extraordinary relics. She was returning to England with 14 mutineers from the 1789 *HMS Bounty* rebellion when she struck the Great Barrier Reef and sank off Cape York.

Now, more than 205 years on, researchers are wondering whether *Pandora* may yield a different treasure: journals by mutineers recounting their side of the story of the uprising against Captain William Bligh. When the mutineers were recaptured in Tahiti their personal journals were seized and stored on the ship and may still be in the hull on the ocean floor covered with layers of sand.



Pandora sinks after striking the Great Barrier Reef

Peter Gesner, the Queensland Museum archaeologist leading the exploration of the wreck, said yesterday a "Pompeii effect" had preserved many items uncovered there. He said there was a possibility, however remote, that documents could be recovered. Items recovered so

"faint chance" Mr Gesner and his team of divers could find journals, but only if they had been wrapped securely and stored in a heavy chest or cabinet. "Some ships' records were securely bound in oil-cloth, others were sometimes placed in canvas bags before being stored in a chest or a cabinet," he said. "It was up to the captain. The more valuable the records, the more care was taken."

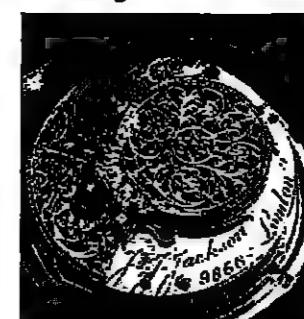
More than 400 items have been taken from the wreck, which rests in 100ft of water. The haul includes silver and brass coins, two cannon, numerous guns, medical implements, crockery, cutlery and glassware, buttons from officers' uniforms, brushes, ship's fittings, a quadrant, bolts and nails and a collection of Polynesian war clubs and carved shells which were probably collected in Tahitian waters

far were in excellent condition because they had been buried in a sandy sediment in much the same way remains from Pompeii were preserved because they had been buried under layers of ash.

Iain MacKenzie, of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, said there was a

burial service. A monument has been erected near the wreck on the ocean floor and a government order has declared the site out of bounds to pleasure divers.

At least 25 per cent of the 117ft-long frigate remains intact. Mr Gesner hopes to find a sponsor to bring *Pandora* relics to England for public showing, possibly at the Royal Navy Museum at Portsmouth.

The *Bounty*, some of whose mutineers were captives on the *Pandora*, and, below, a recovered gold fob watch

## High-tech era opens at Paris Opera

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

THE home of the Paris Opera reopened last night after an 18-month restoration project that cost £20 million but has returned the 19th-century palace to its original splendour.

The Palais Garnier, built between 1861 and 1875 on the orders of Napoleon III and named after Charles Garnier, its architect, now boasts high-tech stage machinery, new safety controls and modern air-conditioning. The lavish interior has been completely renovated in accordance with Garnier's original plans, but the celebrated ceiling painted by Marc Chagall in 1964 has been cleaned and left in place.

Garnier meant the building to be "a temple to a unique art that speaks to the eyes, the ears, the heart and the passions", but Verdi once dubbed it "the Grand Boutique".

Under President Mitterrand, the building was exclusively dedicated to ballet, while the new Bastille opera house, one of the Socialist leader's grandest and most controversial architectural projects, became the official home of opera in Paris. Last night's grand reopening was marked by a concert performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* conducted by Sir Georg Solti.

## Greece expels military attachés

FROM REUTER  
IN ATHENS

GREECE said yesterday that it wanted Italy and The Netherlands to recall their military attachés in Athens after they were detained with documents which "could have been related to information on military installations".

A written statement by Dimitris Reppas, a government spokesman, said that the attachés, both from European Union countries, were not charged with criminal activities because of their diplomatic status.

Notes were found which belonged to them and could have been related to information on military installations on the eastern Aegean island of Lesbos," the statement said. "Their recall has been requested."

The statement gave no details but it followed a question in parliament by a ruling Socialist Party deputy who said that the two attachés were detained on Lesbos in January, shortly before Greece and Turkey almost went to war over Imia, an Aegean islet, which Turkey calls Kardak.

■ Ships collide: Greece protested to Turkey yesterday over the collision of a Greek missile boat with a Turkish Coast Guard vessel near Imia.

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Church makes papal health taboo as frail pontiff contemplates foreign ventures and the year 2000

## Vatican faces unthinkable

THERE is a strong resemblance between the Vatican and the Kremlin, or the Kremlin as it used to be: the high walls, the faithful, the doctrine, the secrecy. Moreover, the health of the Pope is rapidly becoming as taboo a subject as that of the Kremlin leaders used to be.

When the Vatican confirmed this week that new arrangements were in place for the conclave to choose the next Pope, Vatican officials swiftly denied that this cast any doubt on the health of John Paul II. "The Pope is in perfect health," said Bishop Jorge Mejia, secretary to the College of Cardinals.

However, the pontiff will be 76 in May, and perfect is not the first words that spring to most minds. Every Sunday a

### VATICAN FILE

by RICHARD OWEN



great shout goes up from the crowd packed into St Peter's Square as he appears at his window high above. But close to him looks weary and frail. He was overcome by nausea while reading his Christmas message and his trip last month to Latin America has taken its toll.

The conclave arrangements have focused minds on the unthinkable: the papal succession. It is nearly 18 years since the cardinals gathered

Despite the denials, there is

discreet speculation over the name that will accompany the white smoke emerging from the chimney above St Peter's Square. Since two out of three Roman Catholics live in the developing world there are hopes that the throne of St Peter will go to an African, such as Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria, 64, or a South American, such as Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves of Brazil, 71.

But there is a growing view that the papacy will revert to Italy. Leading the field is Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, 69, of Milan. Bookshops near the Vatican prominently display the colour-illustrated volume issued last year to mark the fifteenth anniversary of his consecration as Archbishop of Milan and he is rarely out of the news: this week he engaged Umberto Eco, the writer, in a debate on man's moral vision, and spoke out on the relevance of the Bible to the modern media. Cardinal Martini, a Jesuit, appeals to liberal Catholics. He was an early supporter of the Milan magistrates' "Clean Hands" campaign which turned the corrupt world of Italian politics upside down three years



Cardinal Martini, Archbishop of Milan, seen as possible successor to John Paul II

ago and his social activism and emphasis on reconciliation are contrasted with the conservatism of John Paul II.

But the pontiff remains a revered and charismatic figure. Despite the cumulative

effect of the attempt on his life in 1981, an operation to remove a colon tumour and a hip operation, he is determined to make more foreign trips this year (South America was his sixty-ninth). Above

all, his fading eyesight is fixed on the year 2000. John Paul may yet surprise the cardinals by fulfilling his vow to mark the millennium by climbing Mount Sinai with Jewish and Muslim leaders.

## Holy See courts Gaddafi

VATICAN foreign policy has not enjoyed a particularly high profile since the great East-West confrontation of the Cold War. But the Pope still takes a keen interest in regional conflicts, above all the Middle East, and has reportedly put out diplomatic feelers to one of the parishes of the Arab world: Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya. The Pope's "foreign minister", Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, met the colonel in his tent in the desert last September, and there is talk of a Gaddafi visit to the Vatican this spring.

The move would cut across UN sanctions against Libya over terrorism. On the other hand, Italy has always had closer relations with Tripoli than other European states — Libya is a former Italian colony — and might turn a blind eye. The Vatican hopes Israel will turn a blind eye, too. There are 60,000 Catholics in Tripoli. Benghazi and Derna and Colonel Gaddafi is said to value the work of Catholic nuns in Libyan hospitals and orphanages.

## Superhighway to heaven

THE Vatican not only keeps up to date with the cinema — it issues a controversial list this week of 45 recommended films — but also with new technology. The Holy See is bracing itself for a flood of Internet messages for Easter. According to Joaquin Navarro-Valls, its spokesman, the Vatican's web site has had hundreds of thousands "hits" a day since it went on line at Christmas. Many users want the Pope to intercede for

them; others offer him advice on his health and diet. What they get back is the Vatican Information Service, which puts out the Pope's speeches. Señor Navarro-Valls, a former Spanish journalist well versed in the ways of the information superhighway, hopes to make the service more flexible so Catholics — and others — can engage in electronic dialogue with the Vatican, if not with the Pope himself. The address is <http://www.vatican.va>



The Painter in his Studio, one of the Vermeer works withheld by anxious owners from the exhibition

## Dutch go wild over Vermeer

BY CHARLES BREMNER

AFTER sparking scenes of hysteria in Washington and fuelling a transatlantic fad for 17th-century Holland, a collection of works by Johannes Vermeer went on show in the artist's home country yesterday. The exhibition is sold out for its duration.

Hundreds packed in and around the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, a handsome period town house, for a first glimpse of the show which gathers 22 of the 35 surviving works by the Delft innkeeper whose exquisite technique makes him the Mozart of the visual arts.

The long-awaited European debut of the exhibition, mounted jointly with Washington's National Gallery, has started a full-scale Vermeer festival. The Dutch Government has issued postage stamps, the shops are awash

with merchandise from CD-Roms to T-shirts, and tourists are expected to flock to Delft.

"We sense a bit of hype going on at the moment. Everyone is just inspired by the oeuvre," said a spokeswoman at the Mauritshuis as the first paying customers struggled for a view in the four rooms whose intimacy matches the artist's spirit but which makes for overcrowding.

All 350,000 reservable tickets have been long sold out. However, 200 tickets a day are available to those prepared to queue and the museum is preparing to stay open sometimes to midnight as the spring progresses. In Washington, people queued overnight in the snow. Some art lovers turned violent with gallery officials when they failed to wheelie their way in.

Europeans have until June 2 to see such works as *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *The Milkmaid* and *The Music Lesson* owned by the Queen — all in one setting. "Only once before have so many Vermeers kept company and that was 300 years ago," said Frits Duijzer, director of the Mauritshuis.

The show includes two Hague-based works — *The Milkmaid* and *The Love Letter* — which were deemed too fragile to join the Washington exhibition. So great was the effort needed to persuade owners to part for a year with their prized possessions, and so daunting the risks in assembling two-thirds of Vermeer's work, that no repeat is likely for some time.

The Dutch Government came to the rescue over insurance by shouldering the bulk of the premium. Extraordi-

nary precautions were taken over shipping, including transportation by separate aircraft, to limit the chance of accident or theft. One Vermeer — *The Concert* — is still at large after being stolen from the Gardner Museum in the US. Some museums declined to contribute or offered only part of their collections. *The Guitar Player*, for example, remains in the Kenwood, and the Louvre held on to its *Astronomer*, although it lent *The Lacemaker*.

Another absentee is *The Painter in his Studio*, which Hitler had specially plundered for him by his troops.

The Mauritshuis says it understands the dilemma because it had to contend with upset Japanese recently who had travelled to see its Vermeers and found them absent.

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## ■ OPINION

Britain may not possess a new Beethoven, but our composers are at least worth hearing again



## ■ THEATRE

Peter Greenwell proves melodious but bland in the Noel Coward tribute, *A Talent to Amuse*



## ■ BASE NOTES

Former Seeker seeks a new career. Judith Durham brings out her first solo album



## ■ BASE NOTES

... while in Germany the reclusive maestro Carlos Kleiber makes a return to the podium

The very words "modern music" strike a chill in the heart, don't they? And it is true that, until the early 1980s, the modern-music experience was as welcoming as the whirr of a dentist's drill approaching a mouldy molar. Even raddled old music critics (I speak from experience) used to draw up a mental balance-sheet before confronting a world premiere.

On the debit side, the new piece was probably going to be witless, tasteless, graceless and overlong. It would be called something like *Nobulon-Module VII/c*, and be accompanied by a programme-note riddled with pseudo-mathematical jargon that was even more impenetrable than the music. Quite an achievement.

It would be performed either very earnestly by bearded men in black polo-neck sweaters, specialising in squeaky sounds (the men, that is, not the sweaters — though I dare say that they, too, were selected for their uncompromising sonic qualities). Or it would be

## Make friends with a nice composer

played very cavalierly by non-specialist orchestral musicians who made no secret of their contempt for the new work. One popular trick would be for the woodwind players, say, to spend the entire cacophony tooling *Three Blind Mice* — unnoticed by conductor, composer or audience.

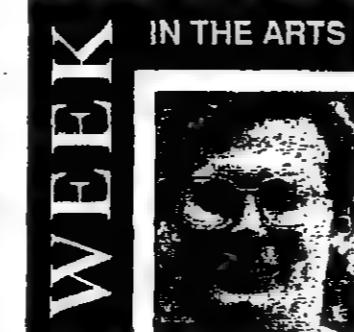
Oh yes, the audience. That would be a very select bunch: the composer's family, friends and publisher, the Arts Council apparatchik who midwifed the composer's subsidy, and, of course, the critics. In other words, not many people who had actually paid for a ticket. And this charade went on night after night, year after year, bankrolled by taxes and BBC licence fees, and masquerading as some sort of brave exploration at the "cutting edge" of modern thought. What a con.

And on the plus side? Well, it

gave the critics something to write about. But even this plus side had a debit side: the critics never told their readers how depressing their evenings were. That was not surprising: like the composers, they made their living by prolonging the avant-garde lie.

In 15 years, much has changed for the better. True, there are still a few unreconstructed dinosaurs around, churning out electronic dross by the kilowatt. But the dictatorship of taste established by dogmatic BBC music mandarins in the 1960s and then maintained by acquiescent critics and sheep-like Arts Council music officers — a dictatorship that snuffed out tunes from the subsidised arts world for decades — has broken down. Now the profusion of styles is positively democratic.

Some serious British composers have followed the lucrative Ameri-



RICHARD MORRISON

can minimalist trail. Michael Nyman, he of the concrete-blasting scores to Peter Greenaway films, is the obvious example. Others, like John Taverner, purvey an appealingly tranquil mysticism.

Young firebrands like Mark Anthony Turnage and James MacMillan compose works of terrific social passion. Nicholas Maw grapples with epic structures that revive the heroic tradition of Beethoven. Others, like Jonathan Dove, produce wonderful collaborations in the community with amateurs. Or, like Julian Anderson, they tap ethnic influences with amazing hybrid results.

Newspapers seize on peripheral but sensational tiffs that perpetuate cobwebbed old stereotypes — "Birtwistle versus the Hecklers", for instance — rather than painting the broader picture. This week the Arts Council issued a "consultation document" on subsidised new music. It contains worthy ideas about new technology, and some distinctly cranky ones about adopting "a more holistic approach". Doubtless it will now be discussed by innumerable committees ... and have absolutely no effect on the central issue of persuading more people to enjoy new music.

That's sad. I know it is dangerous to make comparative judgements across art-forms; nevertheless, it seems clear to me that many British composers are now producing work that is far more vigorous and engaging than

ponderously self-conscious tomes that pass for serious British literature these days, or the jejune installations that grace the Tate and Serpentine Galleries.

Yet each year we watch a media display of abject fawning as a cosy cahooterie of critics and publicists wrap yards of hype round the Turner and Booker contestants. It's like wrapping tinsel round stunted rhubarb. As a result the British public is more aware of fourth-rate novelists and sculptors than it is of top-class composers.

That must change. Composers don't need long-winded "green papers" from arts bureaucrats. But they do need media-wise people to market them with flair and energy. In the past year I have heard works by all the composers I listed above. Not every piece was a masterpiece. But I have never enjoyed concerts of modern music so much. This is as exciting a bunch of composers as you will find anywhere in the world, and well worth exploration. I wish you would believe me. Millions won't.

## ■ BASE NOTES

IN its 50th anniversary year, Edinburgh's film festival — now bearing the intoxicating name "Drambuie" — will offer double the number of events presented last year, with several retrospectives. A series called *Films Which Changed the World* will include lectures by "international politicians and writers". Another series will concentrate on the films of 1947, the year in which the festival started. Silent classics and "the ten best documentaries of all time" are also featured. The festival runs from August 11 to 25.

• THE young Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel has not encountered many setbacks in his climb up the operatic ladder. But his fans will be disappointed by his withdrawal from the Royal Opera's performances of Strauss's *Arabella* this month and next (his co-star, Amanda Roocroft, has also withdrawn). Terfel, who would have been singing the role of Mandryka for the first time, has said that his schedule is too heavy for him to prepare the role adequately. Wolfgang Brendel steps in instead.

• MORE than 25 years after the heyday of the Seekers, the group's sweet-voiced lead singer is releasing her first solo album this month. Judith Durham's *Mona Lisa* will be on the EMI Premier label.

• CLASSICAL music devotees with very healthy bank balances will be flocking to the Stadthalle Ingolstadt on Good Friday (April 5) to witness the latest return to concert life of the reclusive conductor Carlos Kleiber. Seat prices will range from £25 to £125 for a programme of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms conducted by Kleiber — whose fee for the evening will probably be well in excess of £100,000.

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by Vernon Coleman

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## Nice as a jellybean, but not the Master

As the posters outside the Vaudeville remind us, Alan Jay Lerner called Peter Greenwell the best Noel Coward since Noel Coward. After seeing the chap himself sing some Coward songs, and relay a few Coward memories, I am baffled by the description.

Greenwell does not look like Coward nor sound like Coward. He does not have Coward's dry charm or his astringent wit. He wears a yellowish jacket and a pair of grey bags that Coward would have regarded as slightly less elegant than a winding-sheet. You could as well call Judi Dench the best Stephen Sondheim since Sondheim after hearing her sing *Send in the Clowns* in *A Little Night Music*.

This is not meant unkindly. Greenwell is a friendly, beaming cove, as efficient on the piano that fills the Vaudeville stage as you would expect Coward's one-time accompanist to be. He trots through the numbers that most people will want to hear: *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, *Any Little Fish*, *The Stately Homes of England*, and, with a timely reminder that

#### IN THE ARTS

A Talent to Amuse  
Vaudeville

Coward was furious at a million mothers' refusal to heed his earnestly meant plea, *Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage*. Mrs Worthington.

Moreover, he delivers several songs that are less familiar, at least to me. A diatribe against tourism called *I Travel Alone* — "What explains this mass maria to leave Pennsylvania?" — should be played day and night at every airport where people in shell-suits leave in jumbo for world beauty-spots. *Useless Useful Phrases*, which sends up the sort of phrasebook that encourages the English to tell foreigners "My cousin is dead, kindly bring me a hatchet", would make an effective encore for the fannys.

Greenwell celebrates both the Coward who composed wonderfully acerbic

rhymes and the Coward who sentimentalised dear old London town. The trouble is that he hasn't the subtlety or range as a singer to distinguish very well between the two. He bubbles affably along, whether cracking jokes about Sodom and Gomorrah or delivering a piece of spoof cynicism called *World Weary*. It is like spending an evening with a very nice jellybean.

Did he tell me anything new about an artist whose every aspect ("he was, of course, terribly, terribly patriotic") he seems still to idolise? Well, I did not know Coward had written comic poems on travel themes ("if you've missed copulation in Gibraltar, go to Malta"). Nor did I know most of the anecdotes that punctuate the musical flow. If you want to hear how a genteel hotel receptionist told Bea Lillie she should say "personal summer" instead of "hot flush", this may be the one-man show for you. If you are looking for knock on another door.

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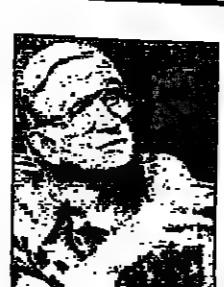
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**CLOWNS**  
In Hackney the great Russian, Slava Polunin, reveals some of the secrets of his trade

**JAZZ**

How Gil hit it off with Miles: Evans and Davis are celebrated in two cities

**THE ARTS**

**RECORDING**  
Emma Thompson in *Carrington*, and other new videos and CDs, reviewed in Weekend, page 8



**ON MONDAY**  
The visual art world rolls out the welcome mat, as Gallery Week is launched across the country

What makes Slava Polunin 'the world's greatest clown'? Andy Lavender finds out

# His quality of mirth is never strained

**T**he news that the Russian clown Slava Polunin will be based in England for the next couple of years is not a story to sweep Northern Ireland — or the Princess of Wales — off the nation's front pages. Nonetheless, it is a minor uplift in these difficult times.

Polunin is a theatre clown, which is rather different from being a circus clown and, in this instance, a thing of sophistication. His

show blends the traditional, the surreal and the poignant so subtly that you might leave the kids at home and go to see him for your own benefit.

Polunin is nearing the end of a short run of *Snowshow* at London's Hackney Empire. I meet him in his dressing room.

20 minutes before curtain-up, the whole company is there:

Polunin, his wife Lena, his down partner Angela De Castro and three members of his crew.

Our man is wearing corduroy, slumped in a swivel chair and smiling enigmatically. How casual he is, so close to curtain-up. Where is the trademark yellow romper suit and mad-professor hair? Is this really the man the writer and critic Howard Jacobson described as "the greatest of modern clowns"?

With ten minutes to go, Polunin starts to get ready. The white make-up is applied with careful ease, first around the mouth, then in two large ovals around the eyes. By now De Castro is a riot of grease-paint and looks like a black-jowled panda. Polunin motions that she should wipe a little of the black from under her eyes. "Marcel Marceau," he says — her arrangement hints a little too closely at Marceau's face-paint.

"I don't like Marceau," De Castro says, attending to the problem. "No, I like Marceau," Polunin replies, "but

**The best clowning has a lot to do with courage and discipline**



The Russian clown Slava Polunin applies his make-up before another successful show

There are a couple of surprises in the second half. After saying farewell to an imaginary lover at the train station, Polunin steps offstage. His wife has just lit something in a top hat with a hole cut in the crown. Polunin puts it on and stare at each other — just as they practised. The audience laughs, and Polunin's sweat-for show is under way.

During the interval, De Castro chats to one of the theatre's staff. She has taken over from another performer as Polunin's sidekick and developed a new clown for the purpose. "Slava's clown is called Yellow," she says. "Mine is called Rough. He's like a sick dog."

"I saw some clowns once," she says after the show, "and I thought: 'That's me. That's what I want to do.' So I left home, left everything, and started training to be a clown."

They say that clowns have a childlike innocence, but you might argue that the best clowning has a lot to do with courage and discipline: the courage to be simple; the discipline to know when to refrain from gagging and flinching. Polunin might wear red and yellow, but he clowns in pastel colours. Watching from the wings makes his timing appear, if anything, more obviously skilful — a dab of expression here, a touch of wind subsides.

Towards the back of the auditorium there is a bar and some tables. Polunin likes to sit here once the show has ended, watching the audience who are now bouncing three huge inflated balls among themselves. He has removed

his red nose and his grease-paint is smeared with sweat. A thirtysomething man approaches. "It's amazing, everybody's smiling," he says. "I go to the men's room and we're smiling. Look, you're all smiling. I'm from New York."

A woman introduces her son and daughter and their respective girlfriend and boyfriend. "Thank you," she says. "It... it makes your heart feel big."

*Snowshow* is at the Hackney Empire (0171-985 2424) until tomorrow, and will tour Britain later this year

# It was Gil's power that put Miles ahead

**JAZZ: Clive Davis previews the London Sinfonietta's tribute to two great pioneers**

touched depths of expression that earlier arrangers had seldom dreamt of.

The two men, who first met in the 1940s, were a study in contrasts: Davis, the irascible man about town and connoisseur of Ferraris; Evans a languid, other-worldly Canadian who, as one writer so memorably put it, looked "like a gently ageing diplomat who collects rare species of ferns on weekends". Although he had contributed to one of Davis's most important early recordings, the 1949-50 *Birth of the Cool* sessions, with Gerry Mulligan and John Lewis, he did not begin a full-scale project with the trumpeter until 1957 when Columbia dipped into its coffers to finance *Miles Ahead*.

With two former Evans sidemen — Britain's Guy Barker and the American veteran Lew Soloff — due to share the solos, the venture is part of the latest decade-by-decade instalment of the Towards The Millennium festival, a season usually devoted to the classical repertoire. Stenz has defended his choice of the Davis-Evans partnership on the grounds that their collaboration exemplified the spirit of the 1950s as forcefully as anything in so-called "straight" music.

Most Davis enthusiasts will, I suspect, be listening with fingers crossed. Evans's fusion of colour and rhythm demands a rare mixture of discipline and flexibility from musicians. Too much precision, and the result will be stilted; too much freedom and Evans's impressionistic tones and contrasts will be muddled.

It could be argued that even Evans himself did not quite get the balance right on *Sketches of Spain*: the longest piece, a setting of the slow movement of Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* sounds over-reverent today. But in the other pieces, especially the anguished trumpet call of *Sexta* — derived from a traditional unaccompanied vocal lament — he and Davis

*Porgy and Bess: Sketches of Spain* completed the trilogy in 1960. Though the two men did work together from time to time after that, it was never on the same ambitious scale of those fifties sessions.

As Davis drifted towards pop in the Seventies and Eighties, vainly attempting to create "the best rock and roll band in the world", Evans too experimented with rock rhythms and textures. The freewheeling orchestra he put together for a long-running series of Monday-night dates at the Sweet Basil club in New York was much more likely to play Jimi Hendrix's *Little Wing* than *Blues for Pablo* or *The Buzzard Song*.

There was nothing of the diplomat in Evans's appearance by this time. Well into his seventies, his grey hair long and lank, he looked like everyone's idea of the swinging grandfather who had taken the road to Morocco. The music, which increasingly tilted towards long-winded guitar and saxophone solos, still had its admirers. But these were most definitely not the meticulously assembled miniatures of old.

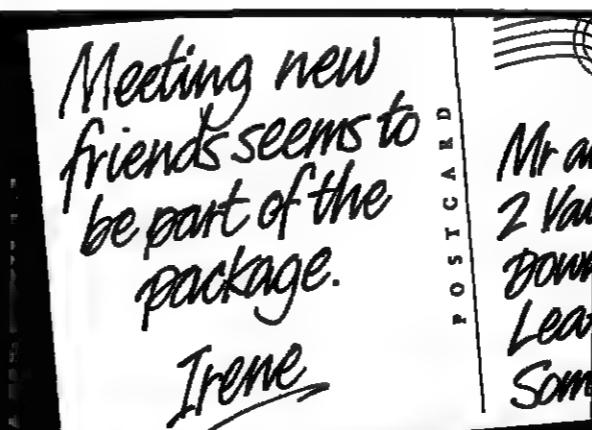
The music industry — always conscious of budgets and deadlines — never fully appreciated Evans's talent. There should have been far more albums along the lines of those jewels, *Out of the Cool* and *The Individualism of Gil Evans*, the most evocative piece ever to be issued under his own name. Miles was right: Evans's spirit lives on.

**• The London Sinfonietta and Markus Stenz perform a tribute to Gil Evans and Miles Davis on Monday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London (0171-980 4343) and on Tuesday at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333)**

MAX JONES FILES/REDFERNS



Study in contrast: the irascible Miles Davis, and Gil Evans (right), the languid, other-worldly Canadian



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# Sassenachs, welcome to Murrayfield

**Magnus Linklater** begs Scots not to play politics with rugby

The Garrick Club is probably not the best place for a Scot to be on the eve of a Scotland-England rugby international. An event which is a national obsession north of the border is here reduced to a topic for general banter. Polite interest takes the place of passion: a blanc de blanc (however good the vintage) is insufficient lubricant for a rollicking argument about line-out tactics; worst of all, there's that damned English sportsmanship. "My dear fellow," said the member, "Scotland positively deserve to win. They're playing far better than us. Jolly good luck to them." Nothing more irritates a Scot than to be subjected by an Englishman to generosity, encouragement and self-deprecation.

These are not, I have to say, virtues that will be readily on display in the pubs of Edinburgh this morning. The notion of extending the hand of good fortune to the English is almost impossible to contemplate in a city where T-shirts are on sale which bear the slogan "I support Scotland or anyone playing England". One national newspaper will publish a 24-page supplement to mark the confrontation. Victory will signal an orgy of celebration. Defeat is unimaginable: this is the ultimate confrontation with the evil enemy.

Sporting banters are not always the best indicators of the state of a nation. Triumph on the terraces, the full-throated chanting of a jingoistic national anthem, rarely translate directly into political action, as Jim Sillars discovered to his chagrin when he lost his Scottish Nationalist seat in 1992 and accused his erstwhile supporters of being "ninety-minute patriots". The great majority of Scots enjoy a perfectly easy-going relationship with the English. But on the fringes there does seem to be a growing edge to national attitudes, a hostility which is meaner and less forgiving than is consistent with good neighbourhoods.

An English friend, who has lived in Scotland since the 1960s, tells me he has encountered more aggression and resentment in the past few years than he has at any time since he first arrived. An English journalist, writing in one of the Scottish Sunday papers last weekend, complained about a "neighbourly distrust, resentment, and dislike that, on occasions, verges disturbingly on the paranoid". There have been angry letters recently about the rising proportion of English students in Scottish universities. The vociferous backing given by Scots fans to foreign teams playing against England in both the football and rugby World Cups (even to the extent of donning the rivals' colours), contrasted shamefully with the generous support offered by England for the Scots.

This is, of course, part of the heritage of a small nation with a long history of asserting itself against a powerful neighbour. John Buchan recalled a childhood in which such prejudices were nurtured. "Brooding over Scottish history made

Nothing irritates a Scot more than English generosity

Scots voted consistently for one form of government, only to be landed with another, did little to help.

It was not ever thus. In the 19th century, a self-confident Scotland with a booming economy, building an Empire "with a little help from the English" as one contemporary boasted, and enjoying a surprisingly healthy measure of devolved government, regarded itself as being on more or less equal terms with its southerly neighbour. Writers like Scott and Stevenson, fully aware of their nationality, nevertheless felt no embarrassment about being called "English". It was assumed that the natural self-confidence of the Scot abroad would always take him to the top. "There are few more impressive sights," observed J.M. Barrie, "than a Scotsman on the make."

It would be nice to think that Scotland could, sometime, revert to the state of relaxed self-confidence it enjoyed then. Resentment and envy are undignified emotions for a grown-up nation; it could do with a stronger streak of generosity than it currently displays. One of the arguments for political autonomy, in my view, is that it would give the Scots people a greater sense of self-reliance and of being on a more even footing with the English. And that would reduce the sense of inferiority behind so many Scottish attitudes.

That, however, will have to wait. For it is my deep conviction that we will, this afternoon, give those self-satisfied English hoodlums the thrashing of their lives.

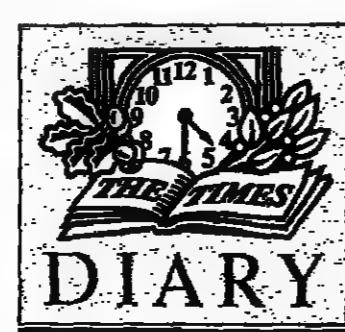
## In the frame

AS TELEVISION companies grapple for an interview given by James "the Cad" Hewitt about his relationship with the Princess of Wales, I have disturbing news about the cameraman behind the escapade.

This is not his first royal adventure. Some ten years ago, Sebastian Rich, then at ITN, was told to make a fly-on-the-wall documentary about the Prince and Princess of Wales, *In Public in Private*.

The first location was Kensington Palace, where he contrived to portray the young Prince as "normal children, fighting, tantrums - the lot". Within moments, he got what he was after. "I was filming Prince Harry playing with some toy cars on the floor when I became aware of a constant tugging at my ankle. It was becoming distracting to the point of annoyance," he explains in his book *People I Have Shot*.

"I left the camera running on my shoulder and peeped behind me to see Prince William running a toy car up and down my trousers. Without thinking, I removed the future King of England from my leg with a small cuff on the



bottom." He says he was relieved not to have been sent to the Tower, but this latest project may yet see him incarcerated.

### Weak hand

GIN AND TONICS were at half mast at bridge tables throughout the land as a mark of respect for the late Duke of Atholl, who was buried yesterday. The duke was, by all accounts, the most formidable captain yet of the Lord's bridge team, with a tenure of more than 15 years. His absence will be felt the more keenly after the death last August

of Lord Lever, another respected player. The Commons team must now be in the ascendancy, but their lordships still have a trick up their sleeves in the professional bridge coach Marie-Thérèse Hill. "Their weakness tends to be bidding," she says firmly, "and I try to teach them the Stayman, the 'unusual no-trump' and the 'weak no-trump' techniques."

### Right face

WHEN it comes to staff recruitment for the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich, I trust the process will pay attention to the politically correct mantra of the present day.

A memo dated 1951 reveals that the museum entertained a beauty parade as the best means of recruitment. "A pretty face always provokes a smile," it says. "It is a great fallacy to think, as many foreigners do, that British women are plain but sensible." The organisers had a certain type in mind. "It would be infinitely preferable to employ the cast of a Hollywood musical rather than a representative selection of Paris Metro ticket collectors."

• Wild excitement has hit Eaton Square, where the Duke of West-

minster and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber have their London homes. The rumour is that a member of the Rothschild family has agreed to pay £1 million for a house, which would make it the most expensive sold in London this year.

minister and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber have their London homes.

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### Speak up

JOHN MAJOR may have picked up a useful tip for the Speaker, Barry Boothroyd, during his trip to Bangkok. The Thai parliament fed



• Is this the queue to see the Millennium Fund cheque?

up with politicians going to sleep on their benches, has installed uncomfortable, low-backed chairs to discourage the somnolent.

The new hydraulic chairs have

only just been tried out, but already

there are complaints concerning

the absence of neck support.

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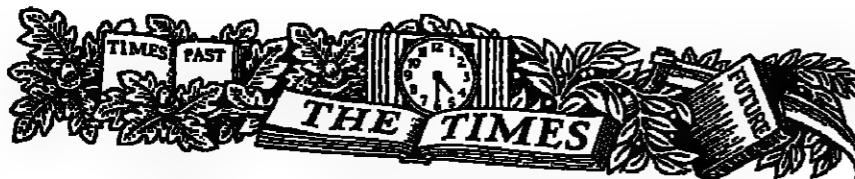
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## FAREWELL TO SHOPPING

The American election enters the wholesale stage

The primary contest in South Carolina today brings to an end one stage of the presidential contest and ushers in a new and dramatically different one. Until now the contenders have dealt with a string of elections in small states spaced out over the better part of a month. In Iowa, New Hampshire, and Arizona, personal campaigning is critical to success. Individuals with limited financial clout and sparse organisational resources, such as Pat Buchanan, can compensate by personal charisma, the exploitation of local political peculiarities, and assured attention from the local and national media.

This "retail politics", as Americans know it, has many charms — for voters, journalists and the owners of the shopping malls where so much of the trade takes place. But the number of delegates so far selected by it is tiny. Its chief purpose is not to decide who will be the nominee but to narrow down an opening field, this year initially nine strong, to a manageable two or three credible contenders. South Carolina will complete that process. If Lamar Alexander fails to win here in his native South, his candidacy is unlikely to survive another week. If Pat Buchanan falls short in this state with a strong social conservative constituency, then he too will be implausible — despite his victory in New Hampshire.

As of next week the campaign consists almost exclusively of much larger states voting in clusters. It goes wholesale. Over two hundred delegates will be decided on Tuesday alone with a further 105 at stake in New York on Thursday. This pattern will continue via the South and Mid-West until March 26, when California — with ten per cent of the total at stake — should confirm the victorious candidate.

This new phase of the campaign cycle favours those with famous names, strong organisation and deep financial coffers. The Senate Majority Leader, Robert Dole, is the

obvious beneficiary from such changed terrain but the mercurial publisher, Steve Forbes, will test how far a personal fortune and the flat tax idea can challenge that. Unless there is a striking result in South Carolina, it is unlikely that any other man can hope to rival these two.

This election is fought in even more challenging circumstances than usual. The decision of California legislators to move their primary from its traditional berth in June to late March prompted a stampede by other states towards the front of the electoral calendar. That concentrated the Republican battle into a brief eight-week affair. Following this, though, is a further curiosity. The Republican Convention, which would normally have occurred in mid-July, has been moved to mid-August in an unprecedented move to avoid clashing for television and press attention with the Olympic Games that month in Atlanta.

This could cause real upset and inconvenience. Senator Dole, unlike Steve Forbes, has agreed to restrictions on his spending before the Convention and is fast approaching the \$30 million ceiling. Meanwhile President Clinton, despite having no opposition in the Democratic Party primaries, is allowed to spend an equal amount leisurely over the next six months. Whoever emerges as the Republican candidate, probably Bob Dole, will have to find cheap forms of publicity between April and August.

To those Americans who prefer the language of Olympics to that of politics, the Republican nomination in 1996 has consisted of a long warm-up, varying hurdles, a sprint starting on Tuesday, a marathon until the convention, followed by a middle-distance contest afterwards. American elections are a trial of endurance, a political pentathlon. And there is still little sign among the Republicans of what the chosen athlete will do with the torch.

## IT'S A LOTTERY

The grant-giving can afford to become more flexible

For what we are about to receive, may the country be truly grateful. In two individual acts of bounteous philanthropy, the British Museum is to be given millions of pounds towards matching its Millennium Commission grant to redevelop its inner courtyard. Walter Annenberg, the former American Ambassador to Britain, is offering £6 million of his own money, and £4 million will come from the Sainsbury family. The Sainsburys' generosity is well appreciated; and Ambassador Annenberg has already won an honorary knighthood. He has given large sums to the National Gallery and to the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral.

But while these seem, and are, large sums of money, they do not begin to fulfil the British Museum's needs for its £72 million project. £30 million of which will come from the Millennium Commission. For no lottery funds come without strings. All grants have to be matched, to greater or lesser degree, by money from elsewhere. The pot of philanthropy is only moderately flexible; the demands upon it are growing fast.

All the bodies that disburse lottery money, apart from the charities board, demand matching funding of between 10 per cent and 50 per cent of the cost of the project. This sounded quite sensible when it was first mooted. The principle was that if a project could not win support from its local community, then it did not deserve to be built. But in the rush to have developments completed by the year 2000, there is a danger of the country, and particularly London, being littered by half-finished, bankrupt building sites.

Local projects can often be half-financed locally. Councils are reasonably generous: Birmingham offered £50 million towards the city's millennium exhibition bid. But the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA) estimates that London alone

will need £400 million of matching funding for all its projects, including the Royal Opera House, the Banksy Tate, Sadler's Wells, the British Museum, Kew Gardens and the Greenwich Millennium exhibition. Other highly deserving causes include a new education centre for conservation techniques at London Zoo. With no Greater London Council, the chances of local authority cash are small. Where is the money to come from?

Not from the private sector alone. British Telecom is the biggest sponsor of the arts in this country: it spends £1.8 million a year. Most companies would prefer to sponsor individual exhibitions or productions than to put money into a building project over which they have little control or sense of ownership. Trusts give a few million pounds a year each, but the total can surely not approach the amount needed.

So far, few are panicking. Only Sadler's Wells has admitted that it might struggle to meet its target. But there are ominously many development directors who claim to be "quietly confident" that they will reach their targets in order not to frighten the grant-giving authorities. This money will not materialise out of the air. There will undoubtedly be a crunch sometime in the next four years.

The lottery bodies would do better to anticipate this than to wait until their sponsored projects are on the brink of collapse. Already the system is a victim of its own success. The lottery has raised more money than expected, which has made more available for grants. But that in itself has made the matching funding requirements all the more onerous to meet. If the lottery continues to be as profitable as it is now for good causes, the grant bodies will be able to afford to be more flexible. Matching funding is a good idea in principle. It is beginning to break down in practice.

## FRENCH POLISH

Flat-pack furniture is the popular new republican assembly

Our Business News reports today that MFI is doing brisk business in France. Here at home the furniture trade may be in the basement with the housing market: but our masters of cheap and cheerful flat-pack furniture, sold by mail order and delivered with testing instructions and the corners occasionally rounded, have built a market across the Channel. Though stagnant in the UK, MFI's sales are up by 26 per cent in France.

Protectors of French spelling can happily Frenchify MFI's initials, the origins of which are lost in the plasterboard of time, to *émaïfie*. But will they also be able to translate the Anglo-Saxon cries of the householder with reassembly rage? The DIY furniture people can respell *la ouïe* and *le scrip* — *driver* and *esprit de corps* (superglue) for their French customers. But will they have the word for the bit that is left over after the *meuble* has been assembled? *C'est un doddle* perhaps?

MFI's invasion of the French market is a triumph for British enterprise. But this popularity of flat-pack furniture also challenges the old British inferiority complex about French sophistication and chic. In spite of their pretensions, under that irritating Gallic veneer, the French turn out to be no better than we are. Their favourite names are not François and René but Kevin and Gary. Their typical breakfast is not *pain*

*au chocolat* but *huit heures bix*. Woolworths has recently joined up with Darty to offer the French our native British pleasures of "pick 'n' mix" Liquorice Allsorts with humbugs. And the French passion for tartan is not clannish but populist, with patterns and fabrics and low prices that would astonish the kilts-makers of Edinburgh.

Sliced bread and instant coffee have become more convenient for French breakfasters than baguettes and *café au lait*. When French Ministers of Culture honour foreign film stars they go for the most demotic celebrities. Among the latest recipients of the French Order of Arts and Letters have been Sylvester Stallone (famous for his specs not his circumference), Sharon Stone (famous for crossing her legs), and the unequivocally and deliberately ordinary Kevin Costner.

The flip side of this French taste for the ordinary things of Anglo Saxon life is that they export Seines of Piat D'Or to our supermarkets, but would not dream of drinking it themselves. But in all other tastes including their furniture, the French are not *très snob* as they pretend. Their tower block jungles are to British housing estates as Marseille to Versailles. And now their furniture comes from MFI. The question is: does it last as long as that popular Parisian snack, *le M & S prawn sandwich*?

## Misplaced secrecy on sale of arms

From Ms Jill Morell and others

Sir, interviewed on *Newsnight* on February 26, the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, invoked the suffering of the hostages held in Lebanon in the late 1980s as a reason for not informing Parliament about the sale of arms-manufacturing equipment to Iraq.

If public knowledge about the sales was deemed to be harmful to hostages held by Iranian-backed groups, why did the Government place their citizens in jeopardy in the first place by allowing those sales?

While the hostages were imprisoned in Lebanon the British Government claimed repeatedly in public that its attitude towards relations with Iran and Iraq was of a superior moral nature. It claimed to have adopted a neutral stance in the Iran-Iraq war, and maintained that Britain alone stood firm against doing deals to facilitate the hostages' release. Even talking to the Government of Iran was eschewed on these grounds. It is profoundly depressing to discover that all along it was business as usual, and that sales of arms-manufacturing equipment to Iraq were the predominant concern.

During discussions between the families and friends of the hostages and Foreign Office representatives, the Foreign Secretary at the time, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and his Foreign Minister, William Waldegrave, became angry at suggestions that they could be doing more to win the hostages' freedom.

Had the hostages' families and the British public been aware of our Government's tilt in favour of Iraq, the Foreign Secretary's reluctance to talk to the Iranians and the Iranians' reluctance to talk to the British Government would have been more clearly explained. The families would have suggested that favouring Iraq over Iran was placing the hostages in greater danger. On *Newsnight* Mr Lang made it plain that this was indeed the case.

For Mr Lang to claim moral justification for not fully disclosing the Government's policies towards Iraq, out of concern for the hostages in Lebanon, is ludicrous. The British Government's policy placed the hostages in jeopardy, not simply public disclosure of the situation. Mr Lang's claim is disingenuous, misleading and offensive.

Yours etc,  
JILL MORELL,  
BRIAN KEENAN,  
JOHN McCARTHY,  
TERENCE McCARTHY,  
CHRIS PEARSON (President,  
Friends of John McCarthy),  
c/o Peters, Fraser and Dunlop,  
503-4 The Chambers,  
Lons Road, SW10.  
February 27.

## Scott documents

From Mr Peter V. Fazey

Sir, The Scott inquiry showed that when the defence asks for government documents to assist its case the person who inspects those documents to see if they are relevant is the prosecution counsel. The prosecution, of course, has a duty to disclose unused material to the defence, but it does not follow that the prosecution should be involved in attempting to defence to acquire other material, never considered by the prosecution, which happens to be held by Government.

In the Matrix Churchill case Scott found that the prosecution counsel "concentrated over much on the damage the documents might do to the prosecution case, rather than on their potential value to the defence" (G1841). In the Ordiet case, Scott found that the prosecution counsel had a "desire to satisfy himself that adequate steps had been taken by Customs to identify documents... relevant to the defence" and that counsel "failed to discharge that responsibility" (J654).

One lawyer cannot serve two masters, and civilised societies the world over believe that there must be separate defence and prosecution counsels. Yet British practice violates this requirement because of a failure properly to distinguish between the role of the State as Crown prosecutor and its role as guardian of possibly secret documents.

Scott recognised this in part when he recommended that where the State is seeking to assert public interest immunity in court it should not be represented by prosecution counsel (K620). But he didn't go far enough, since PII does not arise unless documents are deemed to be relevant. Justice requires that the prosecution counsel should not be in any way involved in attempts by the defence to obtain government documents (other than unused prosecution material).

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Yours faithfully,  
P. V. FAZEY.

Merry Trees, Hangersley Hill,  
Ringwood, Hampshire.  
February 28.

From Mr John Paxton

Sir, Imagine what the arrogance of the Government would have been over the Scott report if it had had a comfortable majority in the House.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PAXTON,  
Moss Cottage,  
Hardway, Nr Bruton, Somerset.  
February 26.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Twists but no regret in royal divorce

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, Amid all the hand-wringing and rubbing of hands which you report (February 29) as greeting the final twists and turns of the royal divorce, it seems to me that one aspect of the matter continually escapes comment: I mean the idea that marriage is never — even for private citizens — exclusively a private affair.

The old Prayer Book puts it emphatically when it describes the setting of matrimony as being "in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation". You cannot go much more public than that.

And marriage is a societal event, affecting as it does two separate family networks, a whole gathering of friends and acquaintances, to say nothing of the community and neighbourhood of which this man and this woman, and the children they may beget, are a part.

Is it not curious that we have heard so little expression of regret from either party for the failure of a marriage

which was in a very real sense ours as well as theirs?

Yours truly,  
CHRISTOPHER FENTON,  
The Leys, Aston, Kingsland,  
Lominster, Herefordshire.  
March 1.

From Mrs Kathleen Griffin

Sir, As a lifelong supporter of the monarchy I was amazed that the Queen, as head of the Church of England, should have urged the Prince of Wales to divorce.

It seems that the Princess has been foolish in some ways but the Buckingham Palace statement that "The Queen was most interested to hear that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce..." contained not one word of sadness or regret and was cold in the extreme. Buckingham Palace has thrown away its best asset.

Yours faithfully,  
KATHLEEN GRIFFIN,  
13 Brookmead Avenue, Bickley, Kent.  
February 29.

## Restoring faith in the teaching of RE

From Dr Robert Traer

Sir, On February 23 you reported that the Department of Education does not intend to inspect religious education classes at Birchfield Primary School in Birmingham, where parents may choose instruction in Islam rather than the regular religious education curriculum. Your editorial on the same day, "Islam at school", asserts that the withdrawal of Muslim children from RE is an unhappy commentary on multifaith teaching and a challenge to the future of our multicultural society.

I believe the initiative taken in Birmingham does call into question the present approach to religious education, but I hardly think it endangers the future of the nation. I am not aware of any evidence that children in a multicultural society, who receive instruction only in their own religious tradition, are less able to get along with their neighbours than those who attend RE.

The crucial question, so long as religious education is mandatory, is whether RE lessons, as you suggest, "cheapen all faiths by vaunting none". This judgement strikes at the very heart of RE, which seeks to foster tolerance by teaching "about religions" rather than offering instruction in a religious faith. If objective teaching "about religions" undermines the faith of one or more of the religious communities in British society, then such a curriculum ought not to be continued.

Given the significance of this question, would it not be wise to urge research into the effects of RE? It may be that there are a variety of models of RE being used in the schools, and that identifying the views of parents with different religious and cultural backgrounds may be helpful in sorting out this issue.

Should teaching "about religions" generally be found wanting, as you suggest, then I believe there are two obvious choices. Education in a religious tradition might be provided in school for parents who choose it, if the religious community provides an instructor, as is being done now at Birchfield Primary School. Or religious instruction might be left to religious communities, as in many other countries.

In either case education in "a pre-

dominantly Christian Britain" need not, as you fear, "neglect its own inheritance". The role of Christian teaching and practice in fostering religious liberty, which you would have all children in Britain understand, can be included in their history and literature lessons.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT TRAER,  
3 Carlton Road, Oxford.  
February 23.

From Mrs S. Rose

Sir, You purport to respect all faiths. How? By "strengthening" Christianity in schools. Your tolerance, it seems, only extends to others from a position of presumptuous superiority.

As a teacher, I feel it is definitely not my place to assign greater merit to one religion over another. That is, quite properly, up to the conscience of each parent.

I teach my pupils about all the world's faiths. When they leave school I would indeed feel a failure if they were ignorant of Lent, but equally so if they had no idea of the moral, spiritual and cultural significance of Rambam or Passover or, for that matter, the Aboriginal Dreamtime (or is that too "superstitious" or "Stone Age" to be considered as a religion in your view?).

I worry about the religious ghetto mentality which leads from intolerance to racism. We must prepare our children to co-exist in a world which is culturally and religiously diverse — let's not neglect anyone's inheritance.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSANNA ROSE,  
22 West End Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.  
February 27.

## Voices on 'Today'

From Mr Roger Mosey

Sir, You reported on February 26 that I want a younger audience and more women listeners to *Today* on Radio Four. But I've never said that, nor do I think in those terms: it's simply untrue that Peter Hobday's departure failed to discharge that responsibility.

As your entertaining pieces this week have shown, there are any number of reasons why presenters appeal or irritate. But, as someone who first worked on *Today* in the Timpson-Redhead era, I believe in the programme's traditions: and I'm confident that the Humphrys-MacGregor-Naughtie team, which has been in place for two years and will now be strengthened, is going to be one of the most successful ever.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER MOSEY  
(Editor, *Today*),  
British Broadcasting Corporation,  
Broadcasting House, W1.  
February 29.

## Mysterious ways

From Mrs Gwenda Rudkin

Sir, Mr David Ballantyne's letter of February 29 about women playing God brings to mind an old Jewish proverb: "God could not be everywhere, so he made mothers".

Yours faithfully,  
GWENDA RUDKIN,  
Arthur, Llanberis, Gwynedd.  
March 1.

Weekend Money letters, page 42



## OBITUARIES

Lydia Chukovskaya, writer, died in Moscow on February 7 aged 88. She was born in St Petersburg on March 24, 1907.

A WRITER who with a stubborn courage outlasted the repressions of the Stalinist regime, Lydia Chukovskaya combined passionate conviction with a generous quality of self effacement. Though a talented author in her own right, it is as much for this as for her defence of fellow writers that she became known.

She championed Pasternak when he came under attack from the authorities in the late 1950s; she sheltered Solzhenitsyn at her country villa near Moscow, and she was the lifelong friend and confidante of Anna Akhmatova, one of the most brilliant Russian poets of the 20th century. Committing, as Chukovskaya did, many of Akhmatova's poems to memory before burning the scraps of paper on which they had been written, she ensured that many of Akhmatova's works, which might otherwise have been lost, survive.

Lydia Chukovskaya grew up in an ambience where art and literature reigned supreme. Her father Korney Chukovsky was, even before the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, a celebrated author, literary critic and translator, known especially for his children's books. This period, perhaps the only carefree time in the whole of her tormented life, is described in Chukovskaya's lyrical *To the Memory of Childhood*.

Her life was hard. In 1937 her second husband Marvey Bronshteyn, a theoretical physicist and writer, was arrested and soon after shot. After his arrest Chukovskaya had to go into hiding because the vindictive regime routinely apprehended wives of so-called "enemies of the people".

It was at this time that her acquaintanceship with Anna Akhmatova began. Akhmatova's husband and son had also been imprisoned, and she and Chukovskaya were to become lifelong friends.

From their very first meeting Chukovskaya started to keep a precise

## LYDIA CHUKOVSKAYA



record of their conversations. This was a dangerous enterprise. Interspersed with chat about literature or the problems of daily life, they would discuss in hushed voices the Stalinist repressions which overshadowed their lives: the bloody executions of innocent citizens, the horrors of torture and imprisonment. Had their words reached the ears of the authorities they would have led to arrest, imprisonment and probable death. Chukovskaya had to memorise Akhmatova's poetry because it was too dangerous to keep it written down.

Her records of her meetings with

Akhmatova subsequently became Chukovskaya's principal work. *Notes on Anna Akhmatova* was published in three volumes, the commentaries for the third volume being completed only on Chukovskaya's deathbed. It was for this work that in 1995 Chukovskaya was awarded the State Prize for Literature. Before that, in 1992, she had been the first to receive the Sakharov prize for her courage.

Before the Second World War, in the midst of Stalin's purges, Chukovskaya wrote her novella *Sofia Petrovna* in which, through the character of her eponymous heroine – a woman who,

after the arrest of her son retreats into a world of lonely fantasy – she analysed the general psychosis of the Russian people, their almost universal incomprehension of the situation in which they found themselves. Even to have kept the manuscripts of such a work would have been considered a grave offence, punishable by prolonged imprisonment.

Chukovskaya, however, though physically fragile and almost blind, was fearless. Extraordinarily sincere – Solzhenitsyn described her as "incorruptible" – she would not tolerate hypocrisy either in literature or in life. In the stagnant 1950s and 1960s she became a veritable warrior for the truth and wrote letters and articles not published in the USSR but circulated in Samizdat and broadcast by foreign radio stations.

She castigated the persecutors of Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov, and before that she defended the writers Sinyavsky and Daniel, who were, in 1966, sentenced for their literary activity. The price she paid was expulsion from the Soviet Writers' Union. Her books were removed from library shelves, her name was not allowed to be mentioned, even as a translator, and for 16 years not a word of hers was published in Russia. She was under surveillance and threatened by the authorities. But she did not give in. She worked unremittingly. This period saw the publication of her books *Going Under*, *The Process of Expulsion* and *Notes on Anna Akhmatova*.

Chukovskaya had a profound knowledge and deep love of poetry. A few years before her death she put together a small anthology of her own poems which was published in Moscow in 1992. She did not live to see in print her final work on the purity of the Russian language, but a newspaper with the article in it was brought to her funeral. She was buried in the cemetery of Peredelkino, near Moscow, a few feet from the grave of Boris Pasternak. Among the many writers who attended, were Solzhenitsyn and Vladimir Kornilov.

Lydia Chukovskaya is survived by her daughter Elena.

## THE EARL OF STAIR



The 13th Earl of Stair, KCVO, MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Wigtonshire, 1961-81, died on February 26 aged 89. He was born on October 9, 1906.

LORD STAIR was the head of the Dalrymple family, a Scots Guard for 70 years, and held a number of important ceremonial positions in Scotland including Captain General of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers.

Stair claimed descent from the feudal barons of Dalrymple, County Ayr, in 1371, but the first proven ancestor was William de Dalrymple in 1292.

The first prominent member of the family was Sir James Dalrymple, Viscount Stair, a zealous Presbyterian who was appointed a Lord of Session by Cromwell in 1657, but whose career included a spell of exile in Holland. He was responsible for the massacre of the Macdonalds of Glencoe in 1692. His son was elevated to the Earldom in 1703 and in turn his son, Field Marshal the 2nd Earl, was the most famous of the family having served at Ramillies, Oudenaarde and Malplaquet and having brought the news of Marlborough's victory to England.

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Lydia Chukovskaya is survived by her daughter Elena.

tweed and Brigade tie. He was keen on sport, particularly shooting and fishing the River Luce, which flowed through his estates at Stranraer on the extreme west of the Lowlands of Scotland. A hundred years ago the family was one of 28 to own more than 100,000 acres in the United Kingdom. (This has been reduced by half). Their home was Lochinch, a fine Scottish baronial castle at Stranraer. The estate, including Castle Kennedy, was noted for its fabulous rhododendrons. They also owned Oxenford Castle, near Edinburgh, which was run as a school by Stair's aunts.

In 1960 Stair married Davina Bowes-Lyon, the 29 year old only daughter of Sir David Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's younger brother. (Lady Bowes-Lyon, her mother, died earlier this year.) The wedding took place at St James's Piccadilly. The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present. Lady Stair was for many years Master of the Wigtonshire Hunt.

Stair is survived by her and their three sons, the eldest of whom, Viscount Dalrymple, also serving in the Scots Guards, now succeeds to the title.

## GIANANDREA GAVAZZENI



Gianandrea Gavazzeni, conductor, composer and musicologist, died in Bergamo on February 5 aged 86. He was born in the same town on July 25, 1909.

A RELATIVE latecomer to conducting, Gianandrea Gavazzeni was 30 by the time he decided to take up the baton. Before then he had been a composer and a musicologist. He wrote extensively about music, notably on Mussorgsky, and even did a little journalism. He was 55 when he made his first appearance with a British opera company, at Glyndebourne, and 66 on his debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

But Gianandrea Gavazzeni cared little for an international reputation. A stocky figure with an unruly mane of white hair, he was an Italian through and through, preferring to conduct in Italy, where his musical home was La Scala, Milan. He made his house debut in 1944 and remained associated with the theatre until his death.

Gavazzeni was La Scala's artistic director from 1965 to 1968 and led the company on its visit to Moscow in 1965. It was at La Scala that Gavazzeni partnered all the leading singers of the day, principally in Italian opera.

He had a special influence on Maria Callas. They first met in 1950 when she was at

life was breathed into this almost forgotten work. Anna became one of Callas's grandest assumptions.

The partnership, however, ended unhappily. After her singing career was over, Callas was invited by Turin to stage Verdi's *I vespri siciliani* to mark the inauguration of the rebuilt Teatro Regio. She asked Gavazzeni to conduct but made the mistake of persuading the Regio to invite the tenor Giuseppe di Stefano to co-direct. Gavazzeni, who had worked on a number of occasions with di Stefano, disapproved and walked out of the production. But his judgment proved correct. By the time the performance ended the house was half empty.

Gavazzeni and Callas continued to work together at La Scala in operas such as Cherubini's *Medea*, Giordano's *Fedra* and Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. But the apex of the partnership was *Anna Bolena*, in which new

admit grudgingly that Gavazzeni may have been right.

Gavazzeni began his career as a pianist and then moved to composition under Ildebrando Pizzetti. He repaid his teacher by becoming a great champion of his music once his own career was established. He conducted a number of premieres of Pizzetti's works, including *Assassinio nella cattedrale*, based on T. S. Eliot's verse play.

Although Gavazzeni's early reputation was as an interpreter of turn-of-the-century *verismo* operas he was always ready to champion contemporary Italian composers, Malipiero and Petraschi among them.

During the 1930s he concentrated on his own compositions, which included a one-act opera, *Paolo e Virginia*. But when he was 40 he turned against his own music and declined to have it played. He began a long association with Florence's Maggio Musicale before the war when his work was performed there. In Florence Gavazzeni argued the case for Boris Godunov in Mussorgsky's original score without the usual Rimsky additions and published a monograph on the composer in 1943. It was also at Florence during the winter season of 1955-56 that Gavazzeni made a new edition of Mascagni's *Le maschere*, which he conducted.

The mid-1950s was also his most fruitful recording period.

With Callas there was *Anna Bolena* from La Scala, also *Un ballo in maschera*. And with her rival, Renata Tebaldi, whom he partnered both in Italy and in Chicago, there was Giordano's *Andrea Chénier*.

He never appeared at Covent Garden but did make one recording with the Royal Opera's orchestra and chorus: *L'amico Fritz*, with Mirella Freni and Luciano Pavarotti. It remains one of the finest monuments to his beloved Mascagni.

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# WEEKEND

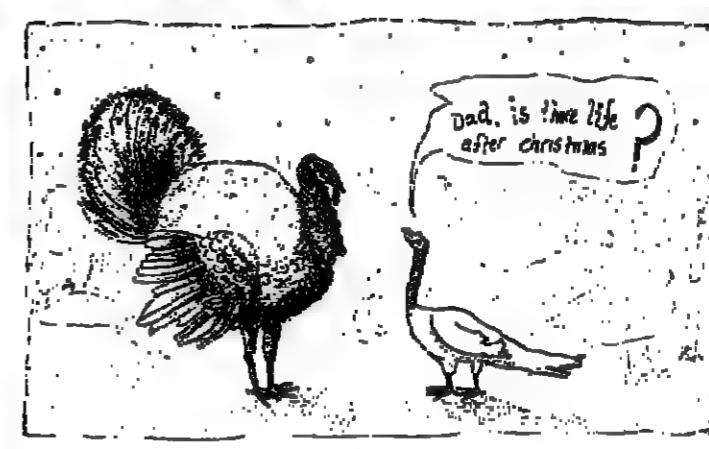
THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

## THE TIMES YOUNG CARTOONISTS OF THE YEAR

TURN TO  
PAGE 3



JONATHAN CUSICK, 17, from Tamworth, Staffordshire.  
First prize (under 30) and Overall Winner



FAFA WOODWARD, 28, from Petham, Kent. Special commendation (under 30)



WILLIAM SPRING, 23, from Stratford-upon-Avon. Second prize (under 30)



CHRISTOPHER SHIPTON, 16, from Wheatley, Oxfordshire. Special commendation (under 18)



DYLAN HENRY LATEGAN, 16, from London.  
Special commendation (under 18)



LAURA TYSER, 16, from Kelso, Borders. First prize (under 18)

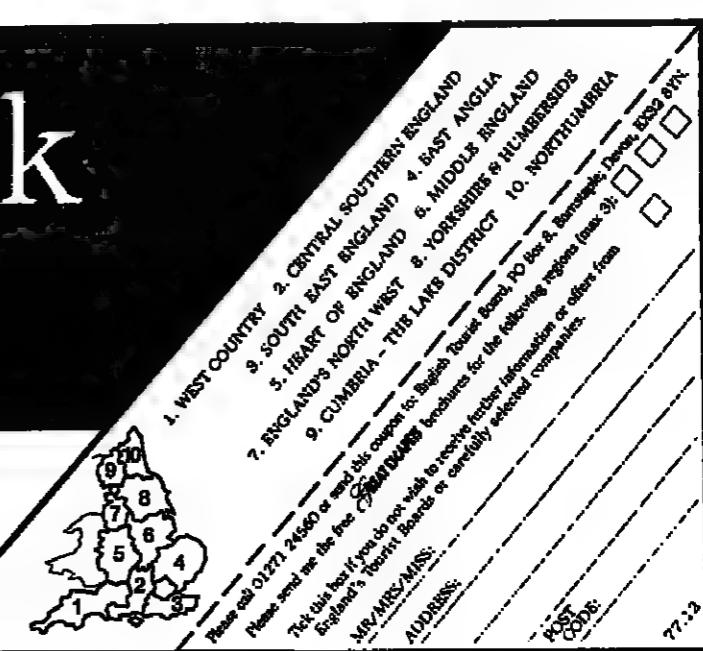


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## INSIDE STORY



Thirteen-year-old Juliet Webb's Chocolate Dancer impressed judge Steve Bell



Jonathan Cusick, 17, the overall winner, hopes that his tutor will take him more seriously now. "People think I'm wasting my time on cartoons"

**'The hundreds who entered the competition found out how easy Mel Calman made it look'**

You can look at a Cézanne, or read Nicholas Nickleby, and say: "I know Cézanne is a great painter, or that Dickens writes well, but they're just not my cup of tea." But you can't listen to a joke or stare at a cartoon and say: "I know this is really hilarious, but I just don't happen to find it funny."

Everyone has their own sense of humour, just like everyone has their own nose. But while personal nose for each of us has many advantages — for example, all mankind doesn't have to collectively bend over a flowerbed every time one of us sniffs a daffodil — not having a collective sense of humour makes life tricky in certain situations: such as a Glasgow pub late on a Friday night, or watching Bob Monkhouse on telly, or judging a cartoon competition.

Claire Calman, who helped to judge the Mel Calman Awards handed out this week to seven talented young cartoonists, recalls when her father and fellow cartoonist Poy Simmonds were judging a cartoon competition. Sifting through the entries, they found the calibre depressing. Suddenly Calman cheered up. "There is a bright side to all this," he told Simmonds. "It shows that it's hard to draw cartoons and that we're all right for work."

The hundreds who entered *The Times* Young Cartoonist of the Year competition — which was launched in conjunction with the British Cartoonists' Association last autumn in honour of Mel Calman — found out just how hard cartooning is, and how deceptively easy Mel Calman made it look in those funny, wicked, mischievous or moving pocket cartoons he drew for *The Times* front page for 15 years.

"You can't train a cartoonist," says Peter Brookes, *The Times'* political cartoonist and another of the judges. "They just emerge. A lot of people think that the drawing is important, but it's not as important as the idea."

The overall standard of drawing in the competition was good. But it's ideas that count. A cartoon is something that makes you think. You don't have to laugh at a cartoon. It doesn't have to be funny but it must be something that makes you sit up."

Simmonds, also on the judging panel, agrees that "ideas are the first thing that have to be right. Look at Thurber's drawings. He couldn't really draw — but he had the ideas. And Gary Larson: his drawing is very simple, but his cartoons are absolutely wonderful."

Yet even when you have struck on an idea, the humour still pivots on the phrasing of the caption. Simmonds, who has been drawing her brilliant cartoons since she was eight, tells the story of how Calman, offering an elder statesman's helping hand to a rising talent, suggested a revision on one of her early captions. She recalls: "One teddy bear was asking

Christopher Shipton, 16, with his *Fruits de Mer*

another bear, 'Are you going to sleep with me tonight?' and Calman said, 'Aren't I much funnier?'

But while she found "very few jokes" among the entries, "no strip cartoons, and certainly nothing like Calman used to do", she thought the winning caricature of BBC2's *Food And Drink* team by 17-year-old Jonathan Cusick was "incredibly good. Technically, it's a very good drawing and a very good likeness."

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## RECORDINGS

**NEW ON CD:** Real odd Beatles sounds; tribute to the singer's singer; two times Brahms

## POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

## THE BEATLES

*Real Love\**  
Apple/Parlophone 8 82646  
THE rapid chart decline of *Free as a Bird* suggests that the public's theoretical enthusiasm for a Beatles "reunion" quickly waned when confronted by the reality.

The follow-up, *Real Love*, is likely to receive short shrift. Recorded under similarly inauspicious conditions — with Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr adding their parts to a cassette demo-recording of John Lennon 17 years ago — it is an inconsequential number.



Retrospective voices

Lennon's voice is understandably blurred. The other three do their best to plug the gaps, and Jeff Lynne's production lends a superficial gloss to an otherwise pedestrian arrangement. But bereft of energy, it hardly sounds like the result of a minor technological miracle, just a bit odd and unbelievably ancient.

## POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

## STING

*Mercury Falling*  
A&M 540 180w  
THE reconfiguration of British pop that has taken place in the past two years will have done little to dent Sting's enduring popularity. But it has stripped whatever re-

mained of his appeal, leaving him marooned once and for all in the flatlands.

Unfortunately, this turn of events coincides with an album which sees something of a furrow returning to the blond troubadour's brow. *Mercury Falling* offers nothing so daunting as the introspection of 1991's *The Soul Cages*, but neither is it brightened by the jaunty mood of *Ten Summoner's Tales* (unless you count *I'm So Happy I Can't Stop Crying*, a number surely lifted straight from the Clive James guide to writing fake country songs).

Lyrics such as "I walk through the day/My coat around my ears/I look for my companion/I have to dry my tears" are printed on the accompanying booklet amid pictures of Sting wandering among the woodlands.

The musicianship is supravocal, the performances buffed to perfection and the tunes get under the skin. But it is hard to work up enthusiasm for an album with so little fire in its belly.

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

## CHARLIE HADEN — QUARTET WEST

Now is the Hour

Verve 529274\*\*

If I were forced to name the most accomplished working group of the past ten years, Quartet West would come to mind. The immaculate ensemble playing and programmatic approach gives every album a distinctive aura.

Haden makes no use of archive material — a device that was in danger of being over-used before. But saxophonist Ernie Watts, drummer Larance Marable and pianist Alan Broadbent are all back at their usual posts. Broadbent has also written atmospheric string arrangements which astutely avoid interrupting the flow of solos. Most audacious of all, perhaps, is the way in which his truncated setting of Lennie

## NEW ON VIDEO: Bloomsbury buddies; tales of the supernatural; a Huppert hauteur

## CARRINGTON

*PolyGram, 18, 1995*  
DORA CARRINGTON'S name may be on the film, and Emma Thompson may play her, but the young painter who formed an unlikely alliance with Lytton Strachey, Bloomsbury's gay aesthete, takes a back seat in Christopher Hampton's drama. Strachey drives this film. Aside from Jonathan Pryce's performance, *Carrington* is cold, fragmentary and hollow, though its surfaces are pleasantly decorative. Available to rent.

## DEAD OF NIGHT

*Lumière, PG, 1945*

ANXIOUS to spread Ealing's wings after the war, producer Michael Balcon instigated this renowned compendium of supernatural stories. The real pearl is Robert Hamer's tale about stifled passions and the hidden life of a haunted mirror. The film's only drawback is the silly comic relief with Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne on the golf course.

## TARANTO, 18, 1994

"FUN is number one!" one teenager remarks after a prank leaves an old woman dead. Luckily the film skirts direct exploitation and explores the aimless lives of two bad girls. Director Rafał Ziemkiewicz struggles to make his film look rough and uncompromising, but the performances by Renée Humphrey and Alicia Witt are genuinely unnerving.

## HAUNTED

*Entertainment, 15, 1995*

In this creepy adaptation of James Herbert's novel, *The Turn of the*

Jolly boating: decorative surfaces in *Carrington*, with Emma Thompson and Steven Waddington

*Screw* meets *Brideshead Revisited*. There is also Aidan Quinn, and the sudden appearance of his American drawl is the film's first shock. Veteran director Lewis Gilbert works hard at generating others, but a terrible script and a crawling pace make all effort redundant. Available to rent.

## MANDY

*Lumière, PG, 1952*

DIRECTOR Alexander Mackendrick serves a powerful drama about a

deaf-and-dumb girl, played with astonishing assurance by seven-year-old Mandy Miller. Mackendrick avoids all hysteria, carefully studying the wayward progress of love and understanding in a household where the parents have communication problems of their own.

## LA SEPARATION

*Fox Guild, PG, 1995*

THE stars almost guarantee quality: they are Isabelle Huppert sporting

selfish hauteur, and Daniel Auteuil sporting stubble. The subject has a comfortable familiarity: a marriage break-up. The visuals come without frills, which suits home viewing if not the cinema, though it is still hard to shrug off that "so what?" feeling as the self-centred characters spin round and round. A third feature from director Christian Vincent: watchable, but sterile.

GEOFF BROWN

## ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

## BRAHMS/SCHUMANN

Violin Concertos

Bell/Cleveland

Orchestra/Dohnanyi

Decca 444 811-2\*\*\*

## BRAHMS/MOZART

Violin Concertos

Zimmermann/Berlin

Philharmonic/Sawallisch

EMI CDC 5 55426 2\*\*\*

THE most striking difference between these two new versions of Brahms' Violin Concerto — one with Joshua Bell and the Cleveland Orchestra; the other with Frank Peter Zimmermann and the Berlin

Philharmonic — is in the quality of orchestral sound. The Cleveland sound is lean, clean and vital; the Berliners is luxurious and velvety. Sawallisch's handling of the score is weightier too, and his soloist, Zimmermann, complements that approach with his attacking style: Bell does not lack power, but he often exploits a vein of introspective fantasy.

If the honours are pretty evenly divided between these two fine young interpreters, the matter may be decided for you by the coupling. Zimmermann offers an expressive account of Mozart's G Major Violin Concerto. Bell makes an eloquent case for the grossly neglected D Minor Concerto of Schumann.

## VOCAL

Hilary Finch

## SIBELIUS

Songs Vol. 3

Von Otter/Forsberg

BIS-LCD-757\*\*\*

ANNE Sofie von Otter and her pianist Bengt Forsberg relate the haunting tale of *The Wood Nymph*, and also offer four more world premiere recordings: *The Jewish Girl's Song*; an early solo version of the choral *Likker, En viss* and the duet *Tanken*.

These treasures are complemented by 13 songs to the poetry of Runeberg, and six of Sibelius' German language settings, all in supple, sympathetic performances.

## WINGS IN THE NIGHT: Swedish Songs

Von Otter/Forsberg

DG 444 189-2\*\*\*

Meanwhile, von Otter's latest recording of Swedish songs from the turn of the century is nothing short of a revelation.

Here is the musical equivalent of the Golden Age of Nordic painting: those dreams of a summer night expressed in the language of national Romanticism and Symbolism.

Here, from Peterson-Berger, are the folk-songs and the *Marie Songs* which could have been written for von Otter's light, lyric mezzo-soprano. Some of the most powerful vocal writing is by Ture Rangstrom. Here is his *Pan and Wings in the Night* which gives this disc its name.

## OPERA

John Higgins

## GALINA GORCHAKOVA

Arias

Kirov Orchestra/Gergiev

Philips 446 405-2\*\*\*

GORCHAKOVA's recital offers a well-chosen double glace into the past and the future. In the middle is Tchaikovsky, the composer on whom she established her now very considerable reputation in the West. The outside is provided by Verdi, sung by Gorchakova in her native Russia but a little-known quantity for the rest of us.

Few ladies bare their souls more openly than Tatiana writing her night-time letter to Eugene Onegin. This is Tchaikovsky with full emotional thrust urged on by Valery Gergiev and the Kirov Orchestra in tingling mood. Lisa in *The Queen of Spades* has even more reason to be haunted by the image of the stranger who stared at her in the Winter Garden. Real Gorchakova territory.

The Verdi is less clear-cut. Gorchakova's soprano has too much of a mezzo-tinge to make her an ideal Desdemona in the *Willow Song* and *Ave Maria* from *Otello*, and *O patria mia* from *Aida* ends with uncharacteristic abruptness. But the two Leonidas, *Forza* and *Trovatore*, find her back on form.

## LOTTE LEHMANN IN OPERA

Nimbus 7873\*\*\*

THIS collection shows the great soprano at the start of her lengthy international career. Here is Lehmann in lighter roles little associated with her, including *Susanna* in *Figaro* and *Zerlina* in *Don Giovanni*. In both she is admirably partnered by Heinrich Schützschus, a baritone good enough to be the subject of a Nimbus disc.

But Agatha (*Freischütz*) is there, the part which led her from Hamburg to become one of the great divas of Vienna. It is easy to see why: a pure, limpid tone which needs little or no support from the primitive orchestra.

★ Worth hearing

★★ Worth considering

★★★ Worth buying

TODAY BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO OFFERS EVERY TIMES READER THE CHANCE TO TAKE OUT A FREE FILM

## Curl up with an icon of the cinema

**The lure of video remains impossible to resist, especially as cinema celebrates its centenary, says Geoff Brown, film critic of *The Times***

the 1930s — the range of titles for sale or rental gets wider month by month. What cinema in Britain would be able to offer punters the animation output of the American comic-strip pioneer Winsor McCay, creator of *Little Nemo in Slumberland*? Yet a video containing McCay's complete works landed on my doormat this week.

Six months after their release, the big Hollywood guns arrive in the rental shops: they take 12 months to reach satellite television. You can revisit *The Avengers* and *Dr Who*; check out *Storm Over Asia*, *The End of St. Petersburg*, and those other Russian classics you have read about but never seen.

You can curl up with an icon, whether Humphrey Bogart, James Dean, or Marilyn Monroe; or linger over masterpieces like Renoir's *La Régale du Jeu*, Marcel Carné's *Les Enfants du Paradis*, or Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai*. If the mood strikes you can also pull out the mat, put on the leotards, and buckle down to *Lydia Wong's Complete Holistic Workout*.

**T**he video phenomenon is not going to go away. This week's big cinema release, *Strange Days*, suggests that by 2000 the fashionable entertainment for degenerate Los Angelenos will be illicit virtual reality discs, which "tape" experiences straight from the brain. Whether this comes about or not — and no doubt it will — it takes no great prophet to forecast that cinema's future lies largely with home entertainment.

By the time cinema celebrates its 200th birthday, we may be too scared to venture out. But we will still see *Casablanca* and *The Wizard of Oz*: Video, or whatever successor technology invents, will always keep cinema's flame burning.



The Wizard of Oz: retrace the Yellow Brick Road



Here's looking at you: Casablanca starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman

## Enjoy a free video



Sharp performance: Johnny Depp as Edward Scissorhands

Starting today *The Times*, in association with Blockbuster Video, gives you the chance to see your favourite film — FREE. You can choose from up to thousands of titles including classics such as — *Brief Encounter*, *Casablanca*, *Gone with the Wind*, the Marx Brothers and *Laurel and Hardy*. Or see again box office hits such as *ET*, *The Godfather*, *Jaws* or *Sleepless in Seattle*.

Simply collect three of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* until next Friday and take them, with the voucher below, to your local branch of Blockbuster Video.

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THE TIMES  
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TOKEN 1

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Derwent May hears royal biographers Sarah Bradford, Philip Ziegler and Hugo Vickers express resentment of Palace secrecy

The Royal Society of Literature lived up to its name last week. Three royal biographers were talking about their work, and the evening meeting also attracted some members of the Royal Household — perhaps keeping an eye on things? Lady de Bellalique, registrar of the royal archives, was among them, as was Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary. However, John Grigg, who was in the chair, announced that Sir Robert had already indicated he would have to leave before the end "so his early departure should not be taken as a statement".

The first speaker was the controversial Sarah Bradford, of *Elizabeth* fame. "I was amazed to find myself the subject of the most malignant, the most reckless and the most adroit ridicule," she

declared, before revealing that this was a quote from Disraeli after the publication of his first novel, *Vivian Grey*. But it applied to her too, she said, after *Elizabeth* was published and serialised in *The Times*, and she had no doubt that it applied to Grigg after he made the first modest suggestion 40 years ago that the Queen should make herself better known to her people.

She defended her use of gossip — or "oral testimony" — in her biography, since half of what we knew about royalty in the past came from the gossip of people such as Pepys and Saint-Simon. Moreover, as she was an unofficial

biographer, she had encountered not just a 30-year rule to protect the archives but the royal 100-year rule. She obviously still resented Palace secrecy. In 1936, she said, the British public was kept in ignorance until ten days before Edward VII's abdication, and in 1990 we still believed in the fairytale marriage of the Princess of Wales. But secrecy always led to trouble, she concluded — and she thought that her biography showed that the Queen was more likeable than had ever been revealed.

Philip Ziegler, who wrote the official biography of Edward VIII, had to admit he had enjoyed the opportunities exclusively granted him in the royal archives. "I felt like a schoolboy let loose in the greatest sweetshop in the world," he said. Nor had he had much problem from the Palace about saying unfavourable things, but perhaps that was because his subject was Edward VIII.

The "big black hole" for royal biographers, he thought, was the complete silence on the meetings that monarchs had with their prime ministers. Even Harold Wilson, who would talk about everything else, would not talk about those. But Mr Wilson enjoyed them. He said the Queen was the only person with whom he could discuss state affairs who was not after his job. Lady de Bellalique chipped in here — she said records of George V's meetings could be seen, but George VI had not actually allowed any notes to be taken.

Hugo Vickers, the third speaker, has been interested in the monarchy since he was a boy at Eton, when he spent all his spare time in Windsor Castle and built a model of it. He too had encountered secrecy when proposing to write a biography of Princess Marina: nobody had wanted to help him and he had given up. However, now that he was writing one about Prince Philip's mother, Princess Andrew of Greece, people were being more obliging.

All the time these musings on royal biography were going on, I felt a certain seething and rumbling among the audience, and finally the question that was troubling them broke forth. Did the speakers approve of the media treatment of the Royal Family, and did they not feel they contributed to it?

There was now a little more unease on the platform. All the speakers roundly condemned the

hounding of the young royals, but they were all historians, they said, and had to be glad of any facts that came out. Nor did they know what could be done about it — "the public interest is so violent," said Bradford. Would all lead to a rebirth of republicanism? asked one speaker. Grigg joined in reassuringly, recalling that 120 years ago many leading politicians were republicans, while none was now.

And what about those television interviews by the Prince and Princess of Wales? Vickers got the biggest laugh and applause of the evening when he said, "I would have preferred it if they had just told me."

In the view of the royal historians, it seems, it is best to keep the goats out of the royal pastures — but the sheep may safely graze.

## White coat, dark soul

■ CARRIERS  
By Patrick Lynch  
Mandarin paperback  
original, £5.99

■ VERTICAL RUN  
By Joseph R. Garber  
Simon & Schuster, £9.99

■ THE ASSESSOR  
By Iain Gately  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.99

THE search for new villains since the end of the Cold War has ranged high and low. While resurgent Nazis and President Saddam Hussein remain the hoary old favourites, a few new authors have been casting the net wider: from medical laboratories to City boardrooms.

*Carriers* is a — relatively — straightforward example of the "killer virus" genre. The moral dilemma which gives *Carriers* its twist, however, is how society can cope with a lethal, incurable disease that may be carried by an innocent who remains immune.

That very question is one that should be plaguing Dave Elliot when he jogs to the office one morning to find his boss waiting to kill him. And it's downhill from there. Even his wife seems to have it in for him, pointing him out to a mercenary team of assassins, many of whom are fellow Vietnam veterans.

*Vertical Run* occasionally breaks for cover, but mostly the book lives up to its title by making Elliot the subject of a manhunt up and down a 45-floor New York skyscraper.

The action is relentless, the pace pounding and the plot spins satisfactorily into uncharted *X-Files* waters. Never trust the men in white coats.

In contrast, the "assessor" of the title in Iain Gately's debut novel is the sort of doctor who never comes near a stethoscope. A brilliant pioneer, Sir Charles Barrington is admired within the medical world. But his techniques are discreetly used by the pragmatists of both big business and the law. Sir Charles's skill is that he can provide a clinical analysis of whether a human being is "good" or "bad".

Unsurprisingly, this is a dubious skill in the grey areas of the modern business environment. It would have been interesting, for example, to know what Sir Charles might have made of Robert Maxwell. As it happens, Fraud Squad officers are interested in a City figure who had been the subject of a past "assessment". But when the assessor's home office is burgled and he is left lying in coma, there are other suspects.

Gately writes always in the first person, switching viewpoints to suit the plot. It is a seductive technique but the stylistic switches are not always radical enough. Nonetheless, *The Assessor* is well crafted and elegant: a good read with more than a hint of sinister psychology to lace the tension. Sometimes the worst enemies are those within.

PETER MILLAR



A wood engraving by Agnes Miller Parker illustrates *Through the Woods* (Frances Lincoln, £16.99), H.E. Bates' evocation of a year in the life of an English woodland

## Meet Dalziel and Pascoe

Marcel Berlins on a cop duo whose appearance on TV should bring their writer the attention he deserves

REGINALD Hill is the most unjustly neglected among the premier league of British crime writers. He attracts excellent reviews and has won his fair share of prizes, but he has somehow not broken through into the mass public appreciation that he deserves.

Part of the reason, I'm sure, has to do with the bad luck of not having captured a television series. Many lesser writers have had publicity disproportionate to their talents because they have managed to get their works on to the screen.

That has now changed: Reginald Hill's cop duo Dalziel and Pascoe will shortly be seen on television; and I expect Hill's readership to grow healthily. But if I were to recommend a novel introducing Dalziel and Pascoe to a newcomer to Hill's work, it would not be *The Wood Beyond*. It's not that it's bad — Hill is not capable of that — it's just that it isn't one of the best.

The Mid-Yorkshire police force's Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel is a copper of the old no-nonsense school. He's a fat, greedy, rude, unappreciative slob, disfiguring an alert, incisive mind. Detective Inspector Pascoe has a degree in sociology; he is



Reginald Hill: the creator of a delightful double-act

■ THE WOOD BEYOND  
By Reginald Hill  
HarperCollins, £14.99

intelligent, well read, compassionate and married to a right-on feminist. Their double-act — funny, abrasive, antagonistic, yet underneath mutually respectful — is one of the delights of English crime fiction.

In *The Wood Beyond* some human bones are discovered by animal rights protesters near a pharmaceutical research centre: Dalziel (pronounced Dee-El) investigates at first without Pascoe, who is at his grandmother's funeral

learning something that immerses him in a search for the truth about events in the trenches of the First World War.

Dalziel's inquiries lead him into a strange relationship with the rights activist Amanda Marvel, who also happens to be a friend of Pascoe's wife, Ellie.

The characters are, as always, interesting and believable, but the interspersing of Pascoe's war research with the case of the buried bones doesn't quite gel. Fortunately, the television series will point readers to some of his better novels.

What, with the hip characters, snappy dialogue and journey through the LA scene, we could be watching a film

## Of movies and shakers

THE PUBLISHERS are not saying whether R.M. Eversz is a he or a she. Everybody else probably knows by now, but I do not, and so I will have to guess female, this book being a pure-bred descendant of the *Thelma and Louise* line of way-to-go, a woman-gets-her-own-back revenge fantasy.

And, like its recent cinematic ancestor, this is a wonderfully watchable tale.

I say watchable because, like many contemporary novels, *Shooting Elvis* is filmic in dialogue, plot, action, location and character. It is particularly strong on the first one — there

are some cracking lines — good on the next three, and does enough on the last one to raise it well above the level of pulp fiction.

*Shooting Elvis* is set in Los Angeles, somewhere which is "about being somebody you weren't to begin with", and that is what Mary Baker, the small-town daughter of an abusive blue-collar father, becomes when she unwittingly sets off a bomb in the airport, goes on the run, and turns

■ SHOOTING ELVIS  
(Confessions of an Accidental Terrorist)  
By R.M. Eversz  
Macmillan, £14.99

herself into Nina Zero, 1990s feminist heroine.

Her journey takes her through the LA scene, a scene by now more familiar to British readers than, say, Manchester, although most of us

have never physically been in it. This scene is full of film stock characters (heart-of-gold private eyes, deceitful Hollywood wannabes, fraudulently hip artists, psychopathically ruthless killers), film stock objects (Harleys, pick-ups, guns, leather jackets) and film stock themes (everybody wants their 15 minutes of fame, the mainstream of society is as amoral as its underbelly, violence has a peculiarly pleasant and precious cathartic val-

ue, the American dream has not come true etc).

All of the above, when joined together with some craftsmanship, or even not very much craftsmanship, provide a winning formula. The reader can relax, retrieve the images, slot them into the internal video and then spend an agreeable three hours watching them. At the end, you can be gratified that you have read a book rather than nipped down to the local blockbuster, but the content, technique and experience were remarkably similar. Good fun.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

## The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

### HARDBACK

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK Ken Hom (BBC)	16.99	0	1						
2 CROSS CHANNEL Julian Barnes (Capo)	£10.99	1	7						
3 MAXWELL: THE FINAL YEAR Tom Bower (HarperCollins)	14.99	9	3						
4 ELIZABETH Sarah Bradford (Heinemann)	£20	0	6						
5 EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Daniel Goleman (Bloomsbury)	£16.99	2	6						
6 DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION Delia Smith (BBC)	£15.99	3	10						
7 BEACH MUSIC Pat Conroy (Doubleday)	£16.99	7	2						
8 UNCOMMON WOMAN: PRINCESS VICKY Hannah Pakula (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)	£24.95	0	1						
9 X-FILES BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED Vol 1 Jane Goldman (Simon & Schuster)	£15.99	5	15						
10 IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY Elizabeth George (Bantam)	£16.99	0	1						

### PAPERBACK

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 TRAINSPOTTING Irvine Welsh (Minerva)	£6.99	4	26						
2 THE RAINMAKER John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	1	4						
3 BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson (Black Swan)	£5.99	2	7						
4 SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS David Guterson (Bloomsbury)	£5.99	5	23						
5 LADDER OF YEARS Anne Tyler (Vintage)	£5.99	6	3						
6 THE STATE WE'RE IN Will Hutton (Vintage)	£7.99	3	8						
7 ACID HOUSE Irvine Welsh (Vintage)	£5.99	7	15						
8 FREE TO TRADE Michael Ridpath (Mandarin)	£5.99	0	6						
9 FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS Graham Hancock (Mandarin)	£6.99	14	2						
10 THE JUROR George Dawes Green (Bantam)	£5.99	13	8						
11 REGENERATION Pat Barker (Penguin)	£6.99	8	15						
12 PALGRAVE'S GOLDEN TREASURY ed. Francis Palgrave (Phoenix)	£0.60p	0	1						
13 THE EYE IN THE DOOR Pat Barker (Penguin)	£6.99	17	14						
14 A CELESTINE PROPHECY James Redfield (Bantam)	£7.99	0	14						
15 BIRDSONG Sebastian Faulks (Vintage)	£5.99	0	46						
16 BREATH OF FRESH AIR Erica James (Phoenix)	£5.99	0	1						
17 WRITING HOME Alan Bennett (Faber)	£7.99	0	18						
18 GARDENING FROM SCRATCH Gay Search (BBC)	£8.99	10	2						
19 LOVE SONNETS William Shakespeare (Phoenix)	£0.60	19	2						
20 THE ROSE REVIVED Katie Fforde (Penguin)	£5.99	0	1						

There is no escape from oddballs behind closed doors

## Neighbourhood watch

## BOOKS

## Drawing on a tortured past

## NEW IN PAPERBACK



Scruton: excellent introduction and meaty reflection

■ MODERN PHILOSOPHY  
An Introduction and Survey  
By Roger Scruton  
Mandarin, £6.99

THIS IS Scruton's pay-off mix. Despite the title and Scruton's insistence that there are no "central questions in philosophy", this volume is very much like A. J. Ayer's *Central Questions in Philosophy* in that it is based on a series of lectures; it also provides an overview of philosophical constructions and all the old favourites, albeit with the emphasis on the 20th century.

Perhaps its genesis explains its immediacy. *Modern Philosophy*'s strength lies in it being both an excellent introduction to the subject and a meaty reflection on it.

■ CARRY ME LIKE WATER  
By Benjamin Alire Saenz  
Headline, £6.99

MOVING between California and the US-Mexican border, this extraordinary first novel explores the fluidity of the boundaries of race, culture and society in the face of the individual's need for lasting human relationships. The novel is peopled by characters in a post-Aids world, enacting a dark Shakespearean comedy of disguised origins and separated siblings. A desire for reconciliation — even of the dead with their native land — is fulfilled in a close-knit community of family and friends on the El Paso border.

JOHN GREGORY DUNNE



■ PLAYLAND  
By John Gregory Dunne  
Granta, £6.99

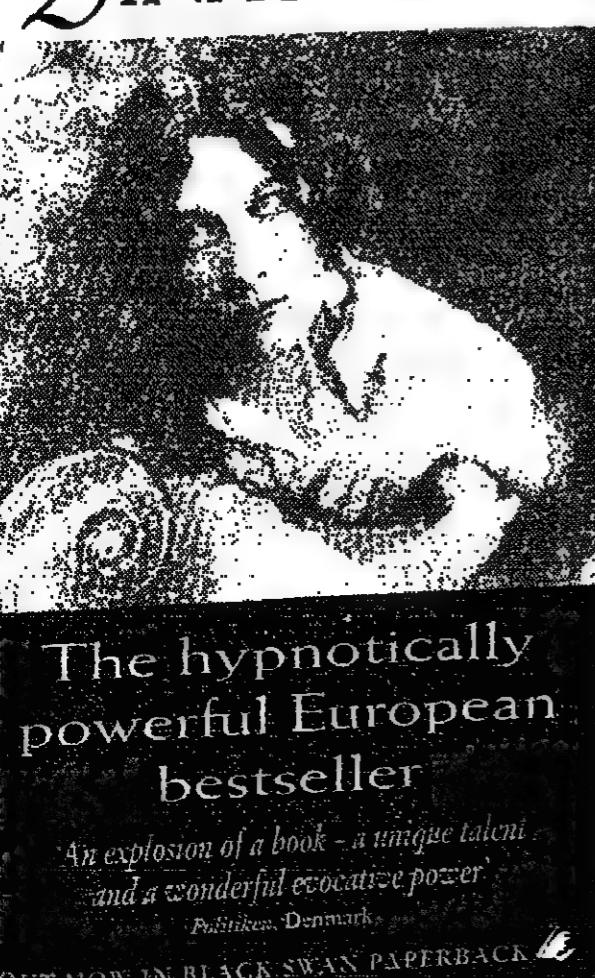
SCREENWRITER Jack Broderick is researching a film on Detroit lowlife when he stumbles across Blue Tyler, 1940s child star, living in a trailer-park. In his growing obsession with her career, he lifts the veil on 1940s and 1950s Hollywood to reveal the corruption underneath. Dunne has produced a cast of strong characters, catching the squalid, feud atmosphere of the film industry past and present.

■ WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS  
By Geoff Nicholson  
Quartet, £7

ERIC the accountant decides that what his family needs to

Contributors: Tibor Fischer, Fiona Hook, Lucy Lethbridge, Amanda Loose

## HERBJØRG WASSMO DINA'S BOOK



The hypnotically powerful European bestseller

An explosion of a book — a unique talent and a wonderful evocative power

Politiken, Denmark

OUT NOW IN BLACK SWAN PAPERBACK £5

Gregory Lynn — 35 years old, an orphan, bachelor, only a child from the age of four and a half — has one brown eye, one green. His sister Janice dies of meningitis, aged seven. His mother miscarries her third baby, and he watches. His father dies when he is 11. At school he is laughed at, called weird.

Gregory begins a diary, not of words but pictures, in which the formative events in his life are carefully and accurately depicted. Later, when his mother dies, Gregory discovers a clutch of less-than-average school reports in the attic, revealing to him the brutality and the haphazardness of judgment passed upon one person by another. Paranoid and wounded, Gregory

Sinister yet extremely funny, this first novel is a brilliant portrait of a psychopathic breakdown, says Mary Loudon

becomes obsessed with order, logic and a sense, however skewed, of justice. He decides to seek out his old school teachers to put things right, and the pictures change, representation becomes re-presentation, demonstration becomes a revision of events.

Drawing, for Gregory, offers no release from the pain of the past but it does provide a means by which the future might be controlled. By drawing things, says Gregory, sometimes you can make them happen. So Gregory draws alternative outcomes, the sort of thing that a counsellor

■ ACTS OF REVISION  
By Martyn Bedford  
Bantam Press, £14.99

might encourage in occupational therapy. Except that Gregory's alternative outcomes all involve

pain and anger, held together with logic, and made flexible enough that anyone coming up against it will simply bounce off. It might be warped, bent out of shape, but it is impenetrable.

*Acts of Revision* is a brilliant portrait of a psychopathic breakdown which, as anyone who has ever been near even the mildly psychotic will recognise, is in fact much less of a breakdown than a build-up; a build-up of an enormous barrier.

The barrier is constructed from

need to commit acts of revision. Gregory — who has sexually assaulted one teacher and posted to another hundreds of cut-up hands "loose in the envelope so that when [he] opens it they flutter about him like confetti" — relishes "this lack of communication, this failure of language between us. It's the one way he will learn to appreciate my point of view."

Martyn Bedford has produced an exceptional first novel. He is a clever and stylish writer: his prose is enormously controlled. This does not mean that Bedford lacks guts or passion — there is plenty of both in *Acts of Revision*, most of it ghastly. This is a profoundly sinister work, and all the more so for being wildly funny too.

When Gregory is charged with acts of violence, he draws a picture of his barrister attempting to push through a thin black line which divides them. The barrister fails. This is because he cannot see that for Gregory it is understanding, and not misunderstanding, which lies at the heart of his

## How scarred is my Welsh valley

■ STATE OF DESIRE  
By Catherine Merriman  
Macmillan, £15.99

DEATH and sex are often said to lie back to back. Catherine Merriman's new novel, *State of Desire*, is a highly charged exploration of the sexual crisis which overwhelms Jenny Parsons at the end of her first year of widowhood. Throughout the novel Merriman creates an atmosphere of risk-taking sexuality and of desire without an ounce of romance in it.

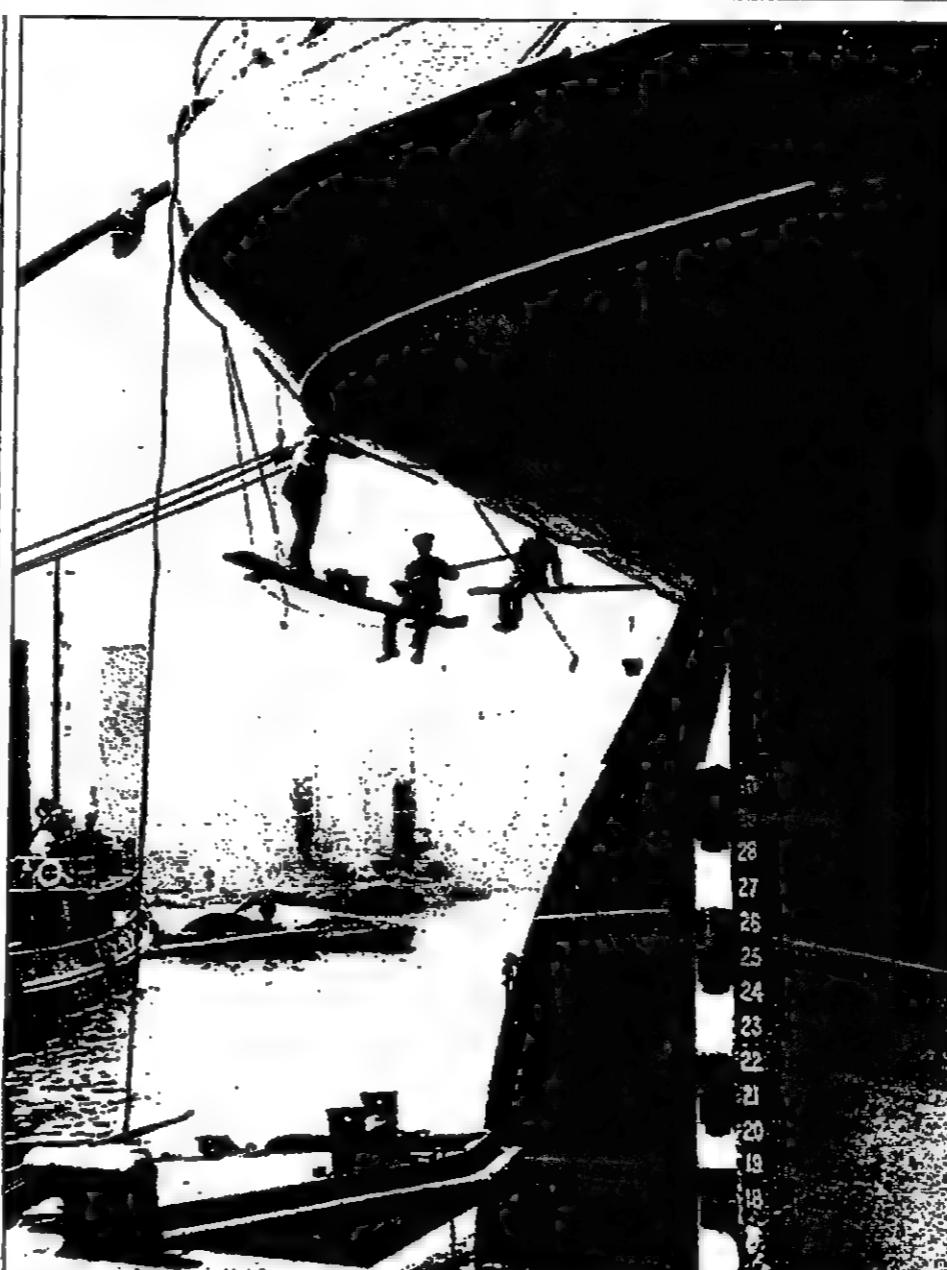
*State of Desire* is set in the Welsh valleys, and the first rugby international without her husband has been as tough for Jenny as any personal anniversary. In her late thirties, she has not expected widowhood. Merriman skilfully links the changes in Jenny's private landscape to the threatened despoliation of the mountain above her cottage, where British Coal plans an opencast mine.

Like Merriman herself, Jenny is an English incomer who has come to love the valleys' blend of natural beauty and post-industrial scarring. Jenny begins an intense affair with a young man closer to her son's age than her own and, as her involvement deepens, so does her interest in the campaign against the opencast mine. But this is a closed, inter-related community which demands concealment in exchange for a blind eye turned to the discreet.

With her lover, Jenny decides to film the mountain top as evidence that this cannot be dismissed as low-grade, disposable land. She imagines that she controls the lens, but she herself is being filmed, and the images which will later be exposed are startling. A weakness of *State of Desire* is that Jenny's grief for her husband and the texture of her lost marriage are not convincing. The letters she writes to her dead husband read as a device to convey information and move the plot forward.

However, Merriman is on home ground for most of this novel. Christmas-tree factories may have replaced deep mines in the Welsh valleys, but the landscape remains unique, and Merriman weaves it into the texture of her fiction without sentimental or caricature.

HELEN DUNMORE



A 1930 photograph from *Dockland Life* (Mainsteam, £20) shows workmen on swinging stages painting the counter stern of a ship in dry dock

## Flesh versus faith

As a husband succumbs to temptation, his wife is seduced by religion

■ A PURE CLEAR LIGHT  
By Madeleine St John  
Fourth Estate, £12.99

awful lot more than it's cracked up to be."

While Simon succumbs to temptation, Flora, shaken by a sense that something is wrong, picks her way to the door of the Anglican church and is made welcome by the vicar and his thoroughly modern wife, a theological don. Soon she is attending services on Sunday.

Patronising and busy negotiating an emotional — as opposed to spiritual — odyssey, Simon falls and falls hard: "Sex, after all, is an

his cool, suffering wife enough to shut up. Inevitably, he and Flora are rummaged by one of Flora's friends.

"There's a lot to be said for the rules," comments another friend, and this slender, pared-to-the-bone but substantial novel offers justification for this contention. Religion offers the sanctuary of defined limits and an additional bonus of faith, leaving those outside to envy its rigour and riches. As Flora concludes: unlike a husband, belief in God gives scope for the benefit of the doubt.

Like toffee, *A Pure Clear Light* should be chewed over, not swallowed in a lump. Not one word is wasted by the author, who clearly despises ornamentation and is ruthless in driving her narrative forward. A triumph of the minimalist, it appraises love, both sacred and profane, desire, pain and the disappointments of this earth with a laser eye.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

Pill-poppers and high fashion set the pace in a romantic thriller

## Sex, drugs and a daily paper

■ DANGER ZONES  
By Sally Beauman  
Bantam Press, £15.99

increasingly unstable Maria? Then there's Star, the beautiful, depraved supplier of this drug, who believes that he has his own personal account to settle with that enigmatic couple.

Finally there's our hero: the green-eyed, black-haired Rowland McGuire, features editor and scourge of the female subs at Wapping. His own crusade for declaring war on drug traffickers is fuelled by the loss of his girlfriend, six years ago, in a drugs-related accident.

Take Jean Lazare, enigmatic and power-mad head of the multimillion fashion house, Cazars. Are the drugs for him, or for his designer and partner, the gifted but

no chemical aids whatsoever, he eschews all involvement, allowing women only six weeks in his life. At the very first use of the "d" word (darling) the morning after, he's into his old tweed trousers before you can say commitment.

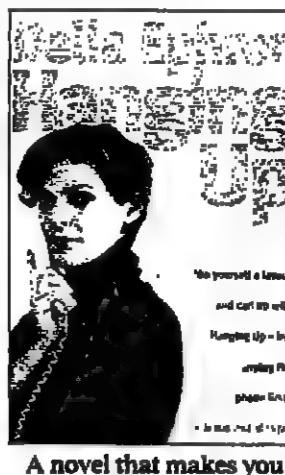
But Nemesis is awaiting Rowland in the person of Gini Hunter, a top feature writer but burnt out after Bosnia, whom he sends on the track of these elusive drugs. There's a terrific climax in every sense, set against a Paris driven into a frenzy by the seasonal collections, when the true effects of the White Doves are discovered and all scores settled.

*Danger Zones* is compulsively readable and utterly engrossing — one of those books which hooks you from page one until you reluctantly surrender it in the small hours of Saturday morning.

FRANCES DONNELLY

## All about Eve's woe

A hilarious portrait of a daughter, wife and mother in a crisis



A novel that makes you laugh and cry by turns

■ HANGING UP  
By Della Ephron  
Fourth Estate, £9.99

dreams of leaving as her mother did before her because, as Patricia once explained, "I turned 45".

You cannot blame Eve for wanting out: she is horribly over-burdened, not only by Lou but by her job organising conferences in unlikely venues.

The action swoops backwards and forwards, charting the progress of Lou's bizarre and terminal decline in Los Angeles, stays in New York putting out the tenth anniversary issue: "A complete nightmare — I can't possibly convey what I'm going through." Maddy is similarly unhelpful.

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## Magic lantern throws the light fantastic



Left, a hand-tinted slide from the early 1900s; right, a popular slide of a sleepyhead swallowing a rat

Slide shows were a popular source of entertainment in Victorian days. Now they have a new, enchanted audience

**E**ven today's sophisticated children, supposedly blasé about high-tech virtual reality, are as entranced as adults by the magic lantern shows that Rosemary Gill stages in schools, museums and church halls.

"They particularly love Victorian stories such as the *Street Cries of London*, which illustrates the social history of the poor and shows the toys and costumes of the period," Mrs Gill says. "But often the children are more fascinated by the

lanterns than by what is on the screen."

Mrs Gill, a lecturer at the Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green, east London, became a lanternist by accident. "My late husband bought me two Victorian slides one Christmas," she says. "One was of a beautiful dapple-grey rocking horse with a boy in the saddle and a girl by his side. The other was an illustration of the nursery rhyme *See Saw Margery Daw*. It wasn't until my husband restored a lantern he had bought

for £10 from Greenwich market that I saw the slides properly.

"We projected them on to a door and I realised how beautiful and vibrant the colours were, painted on glass. I found myself hooked. Now I have four lanterns and 2,000-3,000 slides covering everything from the life of a south London family called Gargery, who were in the leather trade in Bermondsey, to London at the end of the Second World War, floodlit in celebration of the end of the blackout.

"Magic-lantern shows appeal to my theatrical sense," Mrs Gill says.

"As the narrator I learn the poems and stories by heart, but I get the audience to do storms, wind and rain if sound effects are required.

"It doesn't matter how much you magnify the slides, they still have accuracy and colour. They were hand-painted by women in factories, and some are extraordinarily beautiful. On sets you can see the colours round the outside of the glass where the illustrator used to draw the audience.

"In Victorian times slides used to sell in a box of eight to 12, to go with a book. I have Beatrix Potter's *Tales of Two Bad Mice*, issued in 1904, and *Jessie's Last Prayer*, which was a tale of moral values made for the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. *Jessie's Last Prayer* was published in 1870, although the slides weren't made until the 1880s. I still root around in markets but slides are a lot more expensive now."

The origins of the magic lantern are obscure but there is evidence that they were used in 1649 by "priests" to create visions of demons and devils. Itinerant entertainers, mostly Italian, brought the more modern ones to this country in the 19th century and performed at fairs and public hangings.

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and can cost as little as £50. Recently she bought a child's lantern, the sort that Victorian parents bought their offspring for Christmas so that the children could put on their own shows. It was boxed, with a set of slides showing children opening presents with St Nicholas.

"I met an old gentleman who remembers charging a halfpenny for his lantern show in 1900," says Mrs Gill, who is a member of the Magic Lantern Society and charges between £30 and £100 a show.

The child's lantern would have been lit by candles or oil, but larger lanterns were powered by burning a highly explosive mixture of hydrogen and oxygen, the jet then lighting a cylinder of lime. Mrs Gill, and probably the fire brigade, prefers electricity to limelight.

HEATHER KIRBY

### Magic lantern fact file

- Buy lanterns at Camden and Greenwich markets, London, or at any market selling toys, cameras or optical equipment. Christie's the auctioneers has nine optical toy sales. For a free brochure write to: Michael Pritchard, Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7.
- See shows at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Pictureville, Bradford BD1 1NQ (01274 723347), admission free, and at the Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 5333). Adults £5.30; children £4; family ticket, up to two adults and four children, £16.
- Bookings for shows by Rosemary Gill (0181-858 5088).
- For more details write to The Magic Lantern Society, Prospect, High Street, Nuthall, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 3NH.

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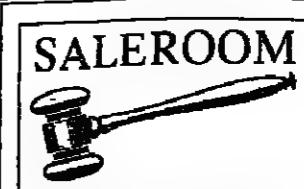
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□ Royal commemorative china is on offer at the Padworth Court Hotel near Reading today and tomorrow (March 2 and 3). A white Parianware bust of a grumpy-looking Queen Victoria is estimated at £80 to £100; a pair of 1937 Crown Ducal mugs show the Royal Princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, £120 to £180.

□ Bonhams transfers its operation from London to Guernsey on Tuesday (March 5) when it sells, on the premises, the contents of Castle Carey, the home of the late collector and dilettante magistrate Frank Nairn. Its furnishings range from Persian and Turkish carpets, estimated at £30 to £40, to one of Sir Edwin Landseer's most sentimental paintings, *The Widow*, also called *Hector and Andromache* — in which a duck is seen mourning its mate — has a pre-sale estimate of £20,000 to £30,000.

□ Bonhams's largest entertainment memorabilia sale to date is on Thursday (March 7). Displays include a pink and white striped bustier worn by Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like It Hot* (£4,000-6,000) as well as Errol Flynn's travelling trunk (£4,000 to £5,000).

□ Britain's premier provincial antiques fair opens in Bath on Thursday (March 7). Items range from Victorian christening gowns and baby bonnets to tallboys and linen presses, with prices from £10 to £10,000.

□ The London dealers Connaught Brown have organised an Affordable Art exhibition opening on Friday (March 8). Here an impressive line up of contemporary masters including Gillian Ayres, Frank Auerbach and Henry Moore can be bought for £2,500. Prices start at £300.

### SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

• Connaught Brown, 2 Albany Street, London W1X (071-408 0362); Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Decorative Fair, the Pavilion, North Parade, Bath (01225 44215); Bonhams Channel Islands Ltd, Castle Carey, St Peter Port, Guernsey (for information 01481 71559); Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-933 0000); Padworth Court Hotel, Near Reading (for information: Special Auction Services, 01734 712049).

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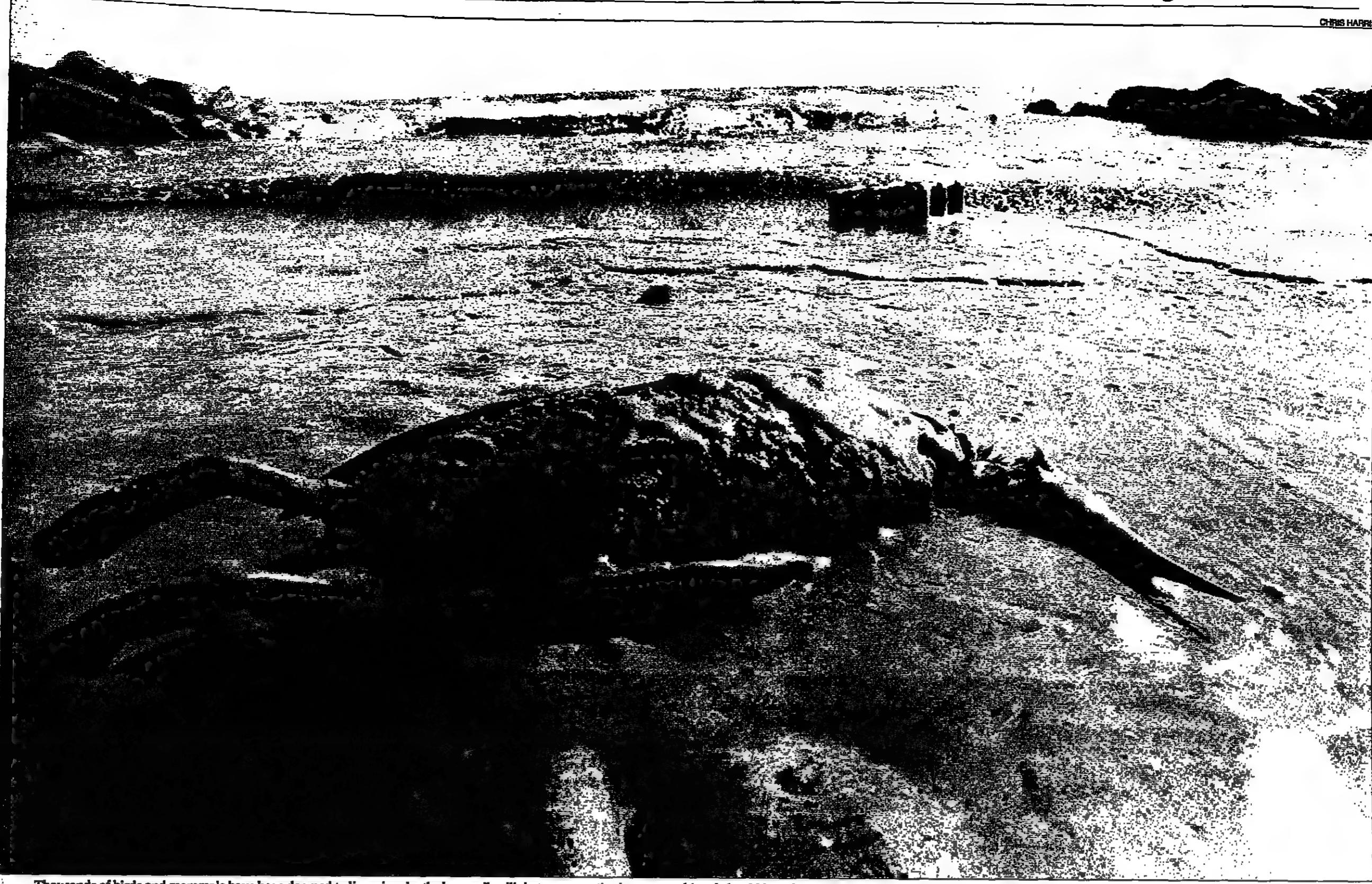
## OUTDOORS

15

3

An oil-soaked guillemot lies dead on a Welsh shore: a harbinger, Simon Barnes writes, of a greater disaster

CHRIS HARRIS



Thousands of birds and mammals have been doomed to lingering deaths by an oil spill that, conservationists say, could and should have been prevented. The birds drown slowly; even the ones that struggle ashore often die of exhaustion

Oddly enough, the first reaction is not anger or despair, or even compassion. It is to feel slightly dizzy: that touch of vertigo that comes when the brain refuses to process information provided by the senses.

We know about the sea. It goes swish. But here, the sea was going gloop. The waves were not waving, the rollers were not rolling. Instead, the sea stirred about languorously, like a cat in the sun: slow movements, smooth, rather velvety.

Oil turns the sea into something else, and the brain wants to reject the prospect of this transformation. It is surreal: a hallucination. And a flash from Hunter S. Thompson came to me: "No, Las Vegas is not a good place for psychadelic drugs. Reality itself is too twisted."

You don't expect to recall such words in Carmarthen Bay. But down in West Wales, reality has been severely twisted. Velvet ripples, sepias coloured, are glugging onto the shore: a Dali parody of real sea. But don't worry. It's just the latest oil spill. A little gift from a ship called *Sea Empress*.

And then the smell gets you. Not actively unpleasant if you didn't know what it meant: a sultry aftershave, perhaps. But it's not the briny: it's not the salt air that tastes of childhood.

There is no mistaking the next sensation: disgust. Not intellectual disgust: the response is visceral. Ugh. It comes from the roots of your being: your entire genealogy, as a member of an island

nation, is expressed in this brief soul's cry.

There are plenty of disasters, though. We suffer from disaster fatigue. The cry of Save the Whales has become a joke and what do rain forests mean to us dwellers in a northern land? Most disasters are subtle and cumulative: acid rain, global warming. We cannot get stirred emotionally, still less physically, by such things. But this is different. A single, gloop is a sermon in ecological damage.

I caught it in the telescope: shiny black, yellow-beaked. The low, compact shape of a diving duck. It made my day. I saw any number of scoters in Carmarthen Bay. They made me sick.

Scoters should not really be out by themselves on Staines Reservoir in Surrey. It is a bleak place, where they have a special kind of wind, designed to freeze off all but deranged persons with binoculars. The bird was about a million miles away, a black dot bobbing and diving behind black wavelets.

I saw my first common scoter on Staines Reservoir, in Surrey. It is a bleak place, where they have a special kind of wind, designed to freeze off all but deranged persons with binoculars. The bird was about a million miles away, a black dot bobbing and diving behind black wavelets.

## Why do we still let this happen?



In Carmarthen Bay Hundreds of scoters, left, and oystercatchers, right, are dead; seals on Skomer are threatened

by shifting winds, breaking up into sickles. Here, at a place called Wiseman's Bridge, there was a scoter just beyond the line of breakers: a scoter as I've never seen a duck before.

It was swimming along with an air of purpose, in a proper duck-like way. But all you could see was the head and neck. No: there was the back, showing every now and again above the surface. Another impossible sight: ducks don't sink. But this one was going down with all hands.

And then another scoter: also behaving as no duck should. This was one indulging in a manic head-shaking. Again and again it shook its head like a man trying to shake water from his ears. But oil doesn't shake worth a damn.

Oystercatchers are the most handsome and recognisable of shore-birds. They are immensely dapper: a dazzling contrast of black and white. But the oystercatchers of Carmarthen Bay are hardly handsome at all. A brown breast isn't half as smart as a white one.

A shag landed on the water in front of me. They look like cormorants but, when they dive from the surface, they

a little jump first. Again and again, the shag jumped; dived. It was like being at a pantomime: you wanted to shout: "Oii! Look behind you." With oil all around, the shag dived and dived.

The beaches were full of life. It was like a Bank Holiday. It was a lovely day, people were everywhere. They were out gathering birds: the dead and the dying. "We got about 70 this morning," said one of these volunteers, young, female, stinking. "Live ones, I mean. Don't know how many dead. Trouble is, you catch one, and it goes and dies on you."

They come to the shore to escape the sea: once on shore, they flap themselves into exhaustion trying to escape their rescuers. As they are running on empty already, the rescue

can be the last straw. Scoters are notoriously nervous birds anyway: always looking to keep a good stretch of sea (or reservoir) between them and you. The disaster might have been custom-made to kill them.

And in Carmarthen Bay, they have so far collected 2,000 scoters: oiled, but alive. Also 500 dead ones. There are 500 other species also found alive: another 500 dead. Most of these last half-thousand are guillemots, the north's miniature flying penguins.

They have done great stuff, these volunteers. The RSPCA has been cleaning up the birds. Other conservation bodies have been passing on volunteers: the co-operation between all the conservation organisations involved has been cheering. The Dyfed Wildlife

Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) are girding their loins for the coming public enquiry.

Along the beaches, the Welsh being as good at disaster as the English, there is a cheery Blitz spirit. But behind it, a murderous anger. "Fed up with being lied to." "Why is nobody clearing up the oil?" "How many more disasters will it take before something is done?" "It's not as if they haven't been warned."

The reason we go birdwatching, rather than earthworm-watching, is that birds are obvious. Like us, they respond to colour and sound. And because they are obvious, they are the best indicators of what is happening. A good population of birds, with birds

of prey on top, means that there is not much wrong with that particular bit of planet. When things go wrong with birds, it generally means there is something rotten deep in the system. All birds are the canaries down the mine: birds are the first to tell us when things have gone amiss.

And so it is with Carmarthen Bay. The poor scoters are but the tip of an iceberg of troubles. The sea is more than scoters: and the entire area of the oil spill is, or was, an area of peculiar richness. It is a fine place for the big sea-going mammals: seals, dolphins, porpoises. Seals come ashore on Skomer Island — right in the middle of the shipping lane — to pup every autumn. There are about 100 born each year. In the past week, there have been several sightings of seals coming up for air in oiled water. Oil damages where it does not kill: it is feared the spill will affect the seals' long-term reproductive success.

As for the dolphins, they too have been seen surfacing in oil. Hard facts here are elusive: you can monitor the shore with ease, but monitoring the open sea is all but impossible.

Existing tankers may continue, but only with clean-up teams on stand-by. And they will be fully liable for the cost of any environmental damage caused by a spill.

In Norway it is standard practice in Oslo fjords to have a pilot on board a tanker six hours out of port. A big tanker will also be escorted by tugs. Had this been the case with *Sea Empress*, the disaster would not have happened.

I walked away from the sea, my feet making little sticking and unsticking noises, as I were walking on Elastoplast. Another disaster, I thought. Who cares? But I knew the answer: practically everyone. Why, then, does the environment get shoved down the list of priorities?

I felt like the man waiting for a bus. I missed the last major ecological disaster. Never mind, there'll be another one along in a minute.

There are three big local industries around the area of



The clean-up begins. in a cheery Blitz spirit

### NEXT WEEK

What makes the British so bad at recycling?

Sailing up the Thames in a gale

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BRITAIN: A peaceful retreat in Herefordshire; and the winner of the Salute to Folk Art prize



Hope End nestles in 40 acres of listed 18th-century parkland with a plethora of splendid walks. None of the rooms has TV or radio, and peace is guaranteed

The market town of Ledbury seems to be stuck in time: since my last visit more than 20 years ago, it has changed but a jot. Perhaps a spell was cast in the 17th century and the town has slumbered on in the Welsh Marches, forgotten by time, save for the arrival of sliced bread, chicken-in-a-basket and that modern thorn in the flesh, the motor car.

At one end of the High Street is the grandest black-and-white house in Herefordshire, dated 1590, which was Prince Rupert's HQ during the Battle of Ledbury in 1645, when Royalist troops surprised a Roundhead advance from Gloucester. Even the tourist board leaflet admits nothing as exciting has happened in Ledbury since.

At the other end, near the Norman parish church, the Market House teeters impossibly on rail-defying stilts. It was built as a corn market between 1617 and 1655, is attributed to the King's Carpenter, John Abel, and still protects market stall-holders from the elements. In between is an array of old-fashioned shops and the Feathers Hotel in grand 16th-century top-heavy black and white.

Ledbury does have two literary claims to fame. The former Poet Laureate John Masefield was born there in 1878, orphaned, and brought up by an uncle until he went to sea at 13. Elizabeth Barrett Browning came to live in a tranquil

valley near Ledbury with her family in 1809, when she was three. Her father bought an estate at Hope End, four miles southwest of the Malvern Hills, but did not like the mid-18th century house and built a new one in Moorish style, complete with minarets and turrets, though not all remains.

Hope End — now a hotel owned by John Hegarty, a former solicitor, and his wife Patricia, a former teacher — is a fine place for a peaceful weekend break. Hope is the old English word for a closed end. But guests craving peace and quiet might call this place Hope Realised. The hotel is reached via a long drive and has only eight bedrooms, none of them with TV or radio. It features in the French guidebook of the Relais du Silence, which recommends ten high-quality hotels in Britain especially for peace and quiet.

The warm redbrick house nestles in 40 acres of listed 18th-century parkland. At night you can hear the

Ledbury: Civil War echoes  
trip we passed Eastnor Castle, where the TV version of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was filmed. It looks like a fairytale prince's pad and is open to the public. In the distance the lights of the Malvern Hills twinkled in the frosty light.

There are several gardens to visit and pleasant walks. The Dailiford Way, which starts at Dymock, is ripe in March. Vineyards such as the Three Choirs, south of Dymock, make a pleasant diversion, as can cider farms like Lyne Down Farm and Westons Cider, both at Much Marcle, where Heller's, a 13th-century house still lived in by descendants of the family who built it, is open to the public.

But many Hope End guests just relax in the grounds or in front of a log fire, or walk out from the house: a brief trek up Oyster Hill is rewarded with breathtaking views of the Malverns.

The Hegartys rescued the house from ruin 20 years ago. Mr Hegarty has also restored the 18th-century walled kitchen garden

where he grows organic food for his wife, an accomplished chef, to serve in the restaurant.

Mrs Hegarty's cooking style is light modern English which, combined with old-fashioned, home-grown treats such as cardoons, sea kale, celeriac, medlars and quince, has won some media attention. Our first dinner included mushroom roulade, followed by a chestnut soufflé accompanied by spinach picked that afternoon and swede lifted just before the frost fell. Most weeks Patricia will demonstrate a mouth-watering recipe, which should be second nature because she runs cookery courses at the hotel.

CHRISTINE WEBB

• The author was a guest of the Hope End Hotel, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1UQ (01531 633613). Two-night weekend breaks start at £240 for two people sharing a double room, including dinner and breakfast; last-minute bookings have a standby rate of £99 per room per night; dinner is £30 per person.

• The hotel features in *Friday Stores*, an eight-part Channel Four series starting next Friday.

• Relais du Silence, 2 Passage du Guesclin, 75015 Paris (00 33 44 99000, or ring 0136 796199 for information). The other nine hotels in Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire.

• Eastnor Castle, Eastnor, Ledbury (01531 633609). Open 11am-5pm, Easter Sunday and Monday, Sundays to 1pm, then Sun-Fri. Adults £4, children £2.

TIMES/COCA-COLA COMPETITION

## Inspired by Stonehenge

SOME of the most ancient sights of the British countryside inspired the winning entry in *The Times*' competition to design a Coca-Cola bottle to reflect the spirit of Great Britain, *Guy Walters* writes.

*Coca-Cola Henge*, by Brian Anderson, resembles Stonehenge and other standing stones across the British Isles. In his brief, Mr Anderson stated that his piece "combines two artefacts that are both recognised worldwide, while also reflecting the continuity of the Celtic community in Wales".

His design for the Olympic Salute to Folk Art competition will be made into an 8ft sculpture to be displayed with other examples from around the world near the Olympic stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, for this year's Games. Mr Anderson, of Dyfed, beat more than 300 other entries.

The competition rules stated that work had to be "created, decorated or painted with local materials, using traditional techniques and featuring images that are indigenous to or symbolic of your community".

Forecasting that fashioning the piece from stone would be both impractical and expensive, Mr Anderson says that it will be made from polystyrene and finished to look like stone.

Before turning to sculpture, Anderson was involved in puppet animation, working on children's television shows such as *Fireman Sam* and *Joshua Jones*. He is now taking a part-time course in computer-aided design which he can use to formulate sculptures.

"I'm going through my hardware phase at the moment," he says. "Most of my pieces are made from nails and bits of wood — anything that comes to hand." The idea for *Coca-Cola Henge* came to him in a flash.

The winning entry: *Coca-Cola Henge*

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border to Ovda for the return flight to London Gatwick arriving in the late evening.

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### The Forum Inter-Continental Hotel, Petra

The 4-star Forum Hotel is situated close to Petra. The 149 guest rooms each has private facilities, air-conditioning, TV, radio and minibar. The hotel's facilities include two restaurants, lounge, terrace/pool bar, swimming pool, sauna and shops.

### Departure Dates & Prices

per person in a twin room  
Sundays - flying into Ovda

1996  
Mar 10, 17, 24 ..... £695.00  
Mar 31 ..... £725.00  
Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... £695.00  
May 5, 12, 19, 26 ..... £695.00  
Mondays - flying with Monarch Airlines into Ras Al-Naqab, the nearest airport to Nuweiba

Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 ..... £695.00  
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... £695.00  
Nov 4, 11, 18, 25 ..... £695.00  
Dec 2, 9, 16 ..... £695.00  
Dec 23, 30 ..... £695.00

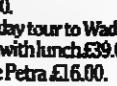
1997  
Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 ..... £620.00  
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 ..... £655.00  
Mar 3, 10, 17 ..... £695.00  
Mar 24 ..... £725.00  
Mar 31 ..... £695.00

Single supplement ..... £165.00  
Police insurance - return flights, 7 nights' accommodation, half board Petra, room only Nuweiba, meals, transfers, local guides and transportation, local representatives/guides. Not included: travel insurance, visa procurement, airport taxes, entrance fees, tipping.

All prices are subject to change.  
Please note: itineraries may be operated in a different sequence or order than shown to avoid over-crowding at particular sites.

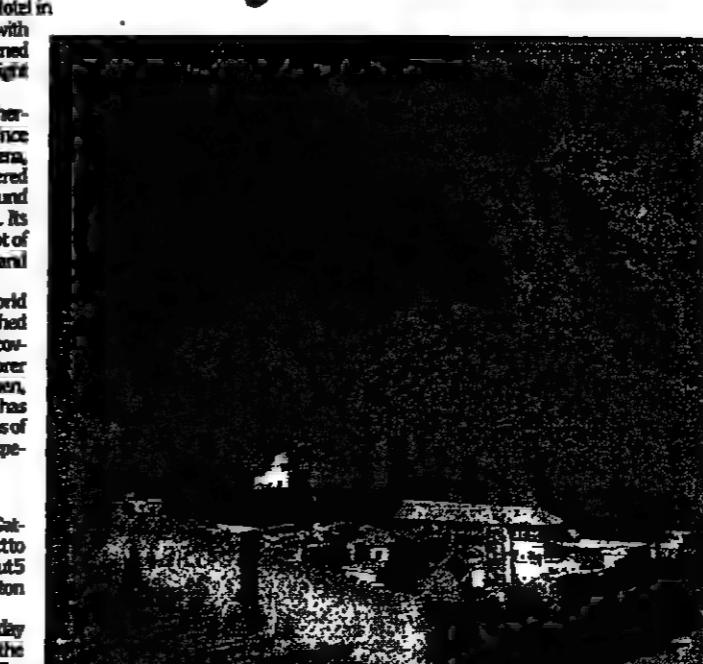
### Optional Visits

Full day tour to Amman and Jerash with £65.00  
Half day tour to Wadi Rum with £39.00  
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7 nights from £620.00



the earliest construction extant. Continuous to Little Petra and see the rock tombs.

Day 6 Return through the sin and climb to the Monastery (el-Derri) Petra's largest monument. In the distance are Aaron's Tomb on Mount Hor, and Wadi Petra. Late afternoon optional excursion to Beida. The ruins of the Neolithic village dated from 7,000BC and a small town.

Day 7 A further day of visiting the sites or optional visits to Wadi Rum, with its dramatic monsoonic scenery, or Amman and the well-preserved Roman city of Jerash.

Day 8 Cross over the newly opened

0345 88

من الأصل

CITY BREAKS: Style, charm and a little light music in Vienna; and a walking tour of bustling Lisbon

# A night or two at the opera

I went to Vienna in search of melody. When it comes to musical theatre, we British are hopelessly confined. All we ask is a quick round of Andrew Lloyd Webber topped up by Gilbert and Sullivan and an occasional Broadway revival. The rich continental tradition of operetta is relegated to tatty productions of *Die Fledermaus* and other holiday specials such as the recent reworking of Offenbach's *La belle Hélène* which, for some mysterious reason, has become *La belle Vivette*.

Forgotten are the Viennese masters of light musical entertainment such as Johann Strauss, Franz Lehár and Emmerich Kálmán, who created theatrical experiences of lasting appeal that would still pack the Coliseum or Sadler's Wells if any producer had the wit to see the potential.

Until that happy day, a weekend break in Vienna with visits to the Wiener Volksoper answers the immediate problem — with the bonus of enjoying the style and charm of this inspiring city.

A good time to go to Vienna for operetta and other delights is around Easter when the avenues bloom in the spring sunshine.

There are so many treasures within easy walking distance of each other but I will stay faithful to the age of operetta and suggest a tour of the best of Jugendstil or Art Nouveau, the turn-of-the-century culture clash that brought artists such as Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele and architects like Otto Wagner to prominence.

Vienna was then a city noted for its rigid class structure and deference to Hapsburg traditions. Yet it was also a city of intellectual ferment where every street café, alaub with argument, was a potential challenge to authority. When the Secession Pavilion (on Friedrichstrasse) was erected for exhibitions of avant-garde art, it was deliberately sited just across from the Academy of Fine Arts, the temple of artistic convention. Its members despised the Secession Pavilion, calling it the "golden cabbage", a reference to the globe that tops this white,

## Fact file

□ Barry Turner was a guest of Travelscene (0181-427 4445). He stayed at the five-star Hotel Vienna Plaza. Two-night breaks start from £389 per person based on two sharing and includes return flights with Austrian Airlines from Heathrow, transfer on arrival and accommodation with buffet breakfast.

□ The author was a guest of the Austrian Tourist Board at the 4-star Hotel am Stephansplatz (00 43 1 53 4050). B&B in a double room costs from £50 to £70 per person per night.

□ Information and tickets for the Volksoper (00 43 514 447 2960).

□ Austrian National Tourist Office 0171-629 0461.

The pleasure of living is always close to the surface. In the spirit of the Viennese, I spent four evenings and one afternoon at the Volksoper to enjoy Lehár (*The Merry Widow*) and *Land of Smiles*, Kálmán (*Countess Mariza*), Strauss (*A Night in Venice*) and Benátsky (*White Horse Inn*). This last was a late arrival on the operetta scene overlapping with the rise of the Broadway musical. For its London opening, in 1931, the Coliseum was transformed into a Tyrolean village with three orchestras and a cast of 160 not to mention horses, dogs and goats. They gave their all for a record-breaking 65 performances.

The producer, Oswald Stoll, demanded and got a water tank built above the stage to create a real dampener for the storm scene. The latest Volksoper production was more modest, but no worse for that. If *White Horse Inn* was a bit of a letdown it was because the director had updated the action, pitching it somewhere around the 1950s, which made nonsense of a storyline featuring the Emperor Franz Joseph as a pivotal character.

The Volksoper, which shares its performers with the Staatsoper where they put on the serious stuff, was more at home with Strauss, Lehár and Kálmán, whose work was played in period and with enormous verve. Pace is vital to operetta. There must be no chance for the audience to reflect on the flimsiness of the plot, which invariably has hero and heroine falling in love, out of love and in love again.

An exception is *Land of Smiles*, written by Lehár (or, rather, adapted from an existing work) to meet the enduring Western fascination for the Orient. The heroine goes to China to marry her true love only to find that the Eastern tendency towards polygamy is too much for a well-bred Viennese girl. The sad ending is anticipated in the big number *You Are My Heart's Delight*.

We enter familiar operetta territory with *A Night in Venice* and *Countess Mariza* with their Viennese waltzes and vigorous dance routines. Then there is the *Merry Widow*, justly the most famous of all operettas, performed at the Volksoper as nowhere else. The exuberance on stage carries over to the audience who can hardly wait to clap along with the *Can Can*. What singers and dancers! They look good too. These are performers who fulfil the romantic ideal, not warbling heavyweights.

The Volksoper is some way from the centre of town, which in compact Vienna means no more than two or three tram stops from the big hotels. But it is curious that the theatre, a turn-of-the-century functional structure, should have been built away from the magnificent Staatsoper and other great cultural institutions on the Ringstrasse. Could it be

that the Viennese were a little embarrassed by their fondness for operettas, not quite bringing themselves to accept that they were enjoying true art? Not a bit of it. The Volksoper was opened when Vienna was the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a growing city that was straining to match imperial grandeur. The theatre was deliberately placed at a point where the city centre was forecast to be 20 years ahead. Such optimism proved ill-founded. The First World War brought the Hapsburg empire crashing down and with it any Viennese pretension to be the leading city of Europe.

Today, the Volksoper offers traditional and contemporary musical treats — from *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart's forerunner for operetta, to *My Fair Lady* and *Kiss Me Kate*. The connecting thread, says deputy director Robert Herzl, is that they are all "fairy tales for adults". The Viennese turn up in strength for their shot of musical escapism, returning again and again for their favourite shows. The clubby atmosphere — with attendants who smile and chat as they show you to your seat, extends to overseas visitors. The passion for operetta knows no linguistic boundaries.

The season runs from September to the last day of June. The operettas I saw remain in the repertoire with the exception of *White Horse Inn*, which came off in December. A new production, more faithful to the original, is promised for two years hence.

BARRY TURNER

fact, in the middle of embassy territory, where ornately elegant buildings with their private subtropical gardens shelter diplomats, their families and staff from inquisitive eyes. These are beautiful buildings, some of which are still adorned with traditional blue, white and yellow tiles.

The imminent Expo is the last of the 20th century and is dedicated to preserving the oceans: 1998 is also the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India. All this will fuel a transformation of the old docks. A huge site of some 60 hectares extending for five kilometres along the north bank of the river Tagus will modernise and change the face of Lisbon for ever. So catch it while you can.

I spent a few days in one of the most comfortable, friendly and well-run hotels I have ever stayed in: Hotel da Lapa, high up in the Lapa district overlooking the harbour. Originally built in the 19th century as a private stately home; it has been tastefully restored as a hotel. In such tranquillity you can pamper yourself, breakfasting serenely in your room, or on the balcony while, below, the river hums with ferries and boats of all sizes. You can take a dip in the outdoor pool even in early November.

This peaceful resting place is, in

MIMI IRVING

• The author flew to Lisbon on TAP Air Portugal (0171-630 0900). The standard fare is £182 return until June.

• She stayed at the Hotel da Lapa, 4 Rua Paes da Bandeira, Lisbon (00 351 395 0005, fax 395-0065). Tariff: 49,000 escudos (£214) weekdays; special weekend rate of 58,000 escudos per day (£350) for a suite with balcony overlooking gardens and River Tagus. An excellent dinner including wine cost £62 for two.

• Less expensive hotels recommended by Birnbaum's Portugal, a reliable American guide, are the Tivoli, Avenida da Liberdade (00 351 350-1300) and the Carlton at 56 Avenue Conde Valbom (00 351 795-1157).

## WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

QUELLO

(a) A Spanish ruff. An adaptation of the Spanish *cuadro* a neck or collar. Latin *collum* a neck. "Our rich muckado doublet, with our cut cloth-of-gold sleeves, and our quello."

ROTIFERA

(c) Tiny animals. A class of minute (usually microscopic) animalcules, having rotatory organs which are used in swimming. From the Latin for carrying wheels. "The Rotifers are minute mostly microscopic creatures which inhabit almost all our ponds and streams."

RAMILLIE

(b) Applied to a wig having a long plait behind tied with a bow at top and bottom. Also a method of coining the hat. A toponym from *Ramillies* in Belgium, the scene of Marlborough's victory in 1706. Laurence Sterne. *Tristam Shandy* (1767): "Putting my uncle Toby's great ramillie wig into pipes."

PREGNADA

(a) A variety of lemon. From the Spanish *preñada* big with child. "There are [in Tenerife] oranges and lemons, especially the pregandas, which have small ones in their bellies, from whence they are so denominated."

## Tarts make you linger longer



High rise: the Santa Justa lift

for a splash of coffee in small oases reminiscent of Europe in the 1950s. For the most intimate restaurants and bars, take a left to the Rua dos Sapateiros, just before it meets another square, the Rossio. A great aperitif, available in any of the bars, is white port — dry, yet deliciously fruity. On a grander scale, try one of the old belle époque restaurants serving fresh fish any way you want it — baked, grilled, poached, boiled or fried.

The Rossio is the heart of Lisbon, a meeting place bustling with street vendors, lottery-ticket sellers, cafés, main Metro station, bus stops, the central taxi rank and bygone-era railway station. In the Middle Ages, the Rossio was used for bullfights, carnivals and rallies as well as the burning of heretics during the Inquisition. From the Rossio, stroll north in the shade of the trees of the wide Avenida da Liberdade and pause at the Tivoli kiosk, last colourful survivor of several that once adorned the Avenida. (The adjacent old Tivoli cinema is now, sadly, a conference centre.) The Avenida is liberally dotted with restaurants, where it is easy to spot the tourists because they are the only ones sitting down — the

Carmo, from the Rua do Carmo. In the Rua Garrett, take time out for coffee or afternoon tea and cake in the Café A Brasileira (The Brazilian Woman), once the haunt of artists and writers. Choose from a tempting array of fruit tarts, custard tarts, cream and chocolate cake. Linger awhile as the Portuguese do.

Finally, walk back down to the Tagus waterfront via the Rua Serpa Pinto, a steep street devoted to antiques and antiquarian bookshops (including, since this was a great centre of navigation, wonderful antique map shops).

I spent a few days in one of the most comfortable, friendly and well-run hotels I have ever stayed in: Hotel da Lapa, high up in the Lapa district overlooking the harbour. Originally built in the 19th century as a private stately home; it has been tastefully restored as a hotel. In such tranquillity you can pamper yourself, breakfasting serenely in your room, or on the balcony while, below, the river hums with ferries and boats of all sizes. You can take a dip in the outdoor pool even in early November.

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... and, while the Indian Ocean islands have their disappointments, all is swell on a luxury voyage to Athens

## What's another word for exotic?

Everything you read or hear about Zanzibar describes it as exotic but, as far as I could see, the most exotic thing about the island was its name. Admittedly, ports in any country are not the best vantage point, but we moved from the crowded, dirty docks into crowded, dirty streets lined with the peeling facades of neglected buildings. The malodorous market was filled with people who made no effort to hide their hostility.

Our official guide took us to a church, a spice shop and a spice farm but avoided the old slave market on the grounds that it was too small to accommodate our party. We sneaked back later and it turned out to be the most memorable part of the trip. There were two rooms, one for women and children and the other for men, but the low ceilings made it impossible to stand upright. It felt cramped with four of us in there, yet these rooms once held 200 people for up to two days while they waited to be sold and shipped abroad. By the mid-19th century the island had an annual turnover of 50,000 slaves.

The beaches of the east coast are repudiatedly beautiful but, because we had no time to see them, it was a relief to scuttle back for a large gin and tonic on the *MS Royal Star*, which had brought us to Zanzibar during a week-long cruise in the Indian Ocean.

Our trip had begun at Mombasa, Kenya, with three days at the Flamingo Beach Hotel. The elegant lobby looked promising after a long flight but the rooms were a disappointment, with rock-hard beds, no mini-bar and no soap.

The grounds, however, were beautiful, with glorious shrubs and massive waterfalls into the swimming pool. A family of monkeys came down from the trees to share the fruit which decorated my tropical cocktail. After that I carried a huge bag of peanuts at all times and they appeared at my French doors twice a day holding out



their disconcertingly human-like paws. It's best to keep the doors locked, however — they stole jewellery and brightly coloured bikinis from some rooms. The doctor on the *Royal Star* told me that monkey bites were one of the most common injuries suffered by tourists and were always the result of people trying to snatch something back.

It would have been nice to take a break from sunbathing for a trip into Mombasa but crime is so bad these days that



### Island cruise fact file

□ The author was a guest of Voyages Jules Verne, 21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG (0171-616 1004, fax 0171-238 8629).  
□ A 16-day trip to Mombasa, Kenya, with seven nights aboard the *MS Royal Star* and seven nights' full-board accommodation at the Flamingo Beach Hotel, costs from £1,650 per person, including flights. A supplement of £195 is payable for an upper-deck cabin. There are four departures a year from Gatwick.

visitors are advised to remove jewellery and watches before any outing. We stayed put. If you want a break from hotel fare, however, I can recommend Claudio's Italian restaurant, £5 taxi drive away.

On the fourth day it was down to the port and all aboard. The crew — Filipino, German and Greek — were charming, and the captain, who I expected to look like the man on the Players cigarette packet, turned out to be young and dashing.

Cruise people are a jolly bunch — well-travelled, affluent and hedonistic. Most seemed to have bulging wallets and sweltering waistlines but, as I have a bulging waistline and a sweltering wallet, it was a shock to discover that I had put on 6lb and my bar bill for the week was £120.

The fourth day brought us to Mayotte in the Comoros, a pretty, if dull island. The young girls' faces were painted in beautiful designs in white paste — proof that they did not have to work in the fields. The island has spectacular views but little else to recommend it.

Our next port of call, Nosy Be (pronounced Bay), one of the islands of Madagascar, was much better. The people in the capital, Hell Ville, seemed pleased to see us and there were lovely souvenirs to buy, embroidered linens and superb marquetry boxes. The island's biggest export is ylang-ylang, a plant which is used as a basis for perfume.

Our last stop was the best. Shungu Mbili was an island entirely without people, except us. Passengers lurked under parasols and snorkelled while the ship's crew set up a barbecue beneath the trees.

The problem with the Indian Ocean is that it sounds more exotic than it is. The islands we saw were so similar that they merged into an image of endless palm trees and markers. The *Royal Star*, however, has much to recommend it. Next time, I shall refuse to get off.

MARY GOLD

## TRAVEL

## Sailing in a sea of bubbly

A gleaming, polished deck glinting under the hot Mediterranean sun. As I sink back into a blue-and-white wooden deck recliner, a waiter appears: "A glass of champagne, sir? Will you take it here or shall I bring it to you in the pool?"

We are aboard the *Royal Viking Sun*, one of the world's most luxurious cruise liners, on a voyage from Barcelona to Athens. My fellow passengers are mostly American, average age 72, according to Robert, our young English waiter, who is working his passage to Sydney. Cruising is a way of life for most of these people and the only way to see the world. It is Florence, Rome and Pompeii this week, and next week a brisk tour of thousand years of ancient Greek and Turkish civilisation in three days.

Now that cruising is exclusively a pastime for the retired, Cunard, which owns the *Royal Viking Sun*, is keen to attract a new, younger market. It also believes that there is a growing British market to be tapped and hates the idea that cruising is almost an exclusively American activity. And, yes, there were Britons on board: my dinner table included a Relate (marriage guidance) counsellor and a churchman from Oxfordshire. None of us seemed to mind that everything on board is priced in dollars and the menu offers such un-British delights as "buckwheat blinis".

Every need is catered for, and such is the service that some people do not even bother to go ashore at ports of call. The food (included in the price) is superb, the wine list (not included) is extensive; bars are open day and night; a mini-Vegas of a casino mops up all your loose change; a cinema shows the latest films; and nightly live entertainment is based on the American tradition (a performer only has to launch into *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* and there is scarcely a dry eye on board).

There are about 450 crew to 600 passengers, and the Norwegian captain, Ola Harstheim, is a heroic figure to both. Many passengers — and about 70 per cent are "repeat business" — will ask whether Captain Harstheim is sailing before they book.

On the first day at sea, he hosts a show in the ship's theatre at which he introduces his senior officers and tells a little story about each as they run on to the stage from the wings to a big-band accompaniment, like participants in a television game show.

The captain throws regular cocktail parties in his quarters at which guests are treated to his own brand of Norwegian humour. This consists largely of Irish-type jokes with Swedes as the butt. "How do you spot a Swede in a crowd of Norwegians? He is the only one who looks up when someone shouts 'there's a dead bird'."

The ship is lavishly decorated, the recent refit having given the decor a 1970s feel, though some might hanker after the more traditional brass and mahogany.

The shore excursions are organised with military precision. Present yourself on the quayside at 9am and you will be escorted around the Colosseum, the Acropolis, the Uffizi or Ephesus.

The state cabins are sumptuous. I counted enough leather seating for 13 in mine. It is often hard to remember that one is on board a ship at all. The entire creation resembles nothing so much as a floating



Though everything you need is on board the liner, a shore excursion could take you to Florence with its wealth of art

### Fact file

□ The author was a guest of Cunard on *Royal Viking Sun* on a cruise from Barcelona to Athens. This year, the ship will cruise from Genoa to Venice, from October 12-26.

□ Prices on the "Treasures of the Ancients" cruise start from £3,195 and include 14 nights' accommodation, with all meals and entertainment on board, return flights to London and transfers between airport and dock. Port and handling charges, UK Government tax, personal drinks and tipping are not included.

□ For reservations, contact Cunard on 01703 634666.

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NAMIBIA: Chasing Mad Max and the unicorn is no fantasy on the dry plains of Damaraland

# Undisputed kings of the wild frontier

Admittedly it had two horns, but it was still the nearest thing to a unicorn I have ever seen. Catch it in profile and the long, slender horns look like one; startle it and it doesn't scamper but canters, with a long moment of suspension between strides; frighten it properly and it drops its whiners and gallops.

Oryx with a Lone Ranger mask, black stockings with white socks on top and a tail like Cher's hairpiece. Oryx: the beast of the desert. Or, if you wish to be pendent, the semi-desert. But anyway, at home in these gravel plains, these endless seas of cat-litter.

Is this the world's most handsome antelope? Or even quadruped? You can admire its dry-country adaptations: how it can raise its body temperature, dig for tubers, find hidden desert pools, concentrate its urine and even construct hollows and shelters to avoid the midday heat.

Or you can just admire its looks, its sheer presence: monarch of all the cat-litter it surveys. It exudes a sense of fisticious toughness. It was a new animal for me and a new chunk of Africa. I was in Namibia: a dry area called Damaraland, the Kalahari to my right, the Skeleton Coast to my left.

I don't know much about deserts: my natural habitat in Africa is savannah, where your head rings with bird-calls and there are more big mammals than you can seriously believe in. If you are a gourmand for wildlife, then savannah is your place.

The desert is more like nouvelle cuisine. You don't get much, and what you do get takes an awful lot of trouble, so you have to work extra hard to make sure that you appreciate it.



ate every mouthful, or eyeful. Every oryx is a gem: not for that reason, it is called gemsbok in Afrikaans.

Every springbok is a jewel too. In some places you see them by the thousand: in Damaraland you see one at a time: beautiful, delicate creatures, there to savour. It is an event when you see two or three together.

In this strange and wild place — it is not even a national park but communal land — you are never quite sure what will turn up. There are elephants and lions in the desert.

□ A three-day extension is available at the stunning Waterberg Plateau. The price for a 17-day safari is £2,535.

Oddly enough, this land of gravel and strange sharp hills, each one with the top sliced neatly off, is also a stronghold of black rhino. It used to be a fringe habitat for the species, but rhino have been so heavily poached in their main areas that the desert now holds significant numbers. What was once fringe is now heartland.

These desert rhino are not beasts who can subsist on the bare open plains but Damaraland is slashed with green gullies: green gashes across the brown and desiccated land. These are known delightfully as ephemeral rivers — now you see them, now you don't. Mostly you don't.

It doesn't rain much in Damaraland: say six inches in a foot a year. But it rains

farther inland and, after a distant storm, the water will sometimes crash through these gullies leaving a trail of fertility in its wake. One man I met spoke with awe about his local river, which a short time ago had reached the sea — for

the first time in 27 years. I walked downstream with him: not walking on water, for it had all gone. Only a puddle or two remained.

In the heart of the desert, then, you find a series of green tunnels. If you wish, you can crash through them. I have often walked through the 8-ft-high grass of the savannah and I know the correct name for it: adrenaline grass. You can stumble on top of anything: a herd of buffalo, a pride of lions.

In these tunnels there is always a pleasant farmyard smell: rhino dung. They deposit it in communal heaps, middens, to let each other know who is about. The scent of the midden: the winding tunnel with its blind corners, the surge of adrenaline.

I found furious scrapings where male rhinos had advertised their presence as territorial bosses. Often I saw their tracks: three-toed monsters. At one point, there was 30 yards of trampling. Here, in a frenzy of territoriality, a male had dragged his back legs across the landscape.

I was travelling with Mike Hearn, who works in rhino conservation in Namibia. He knows that there are 120 rhinoceros in Damaraland; he knows each one by name.

There is a one-eared beast called van Gogh, but Hearn has an affinity with Mad Max.

I didn't actually see rhino, the trip was too short and fleeting. On a longer trip, you are unlikely to miss out. But I never mind not seeing wildlife. It is enough to know that there are 120 rhinos about somewhere — maybe round the next corner. If not rhino, then an oryx or a unicorn. It's all one to me.

SIMON BARNES

PERRY  
CLEVELAND-PECK

## Fact file

The author travelled to Namibia as a guest of Save the Rhino Safaris (0171-409 7962), which acts as a fund-raiser for the organisation Save the Rhino International and the Namibia Black Rhino Fund.

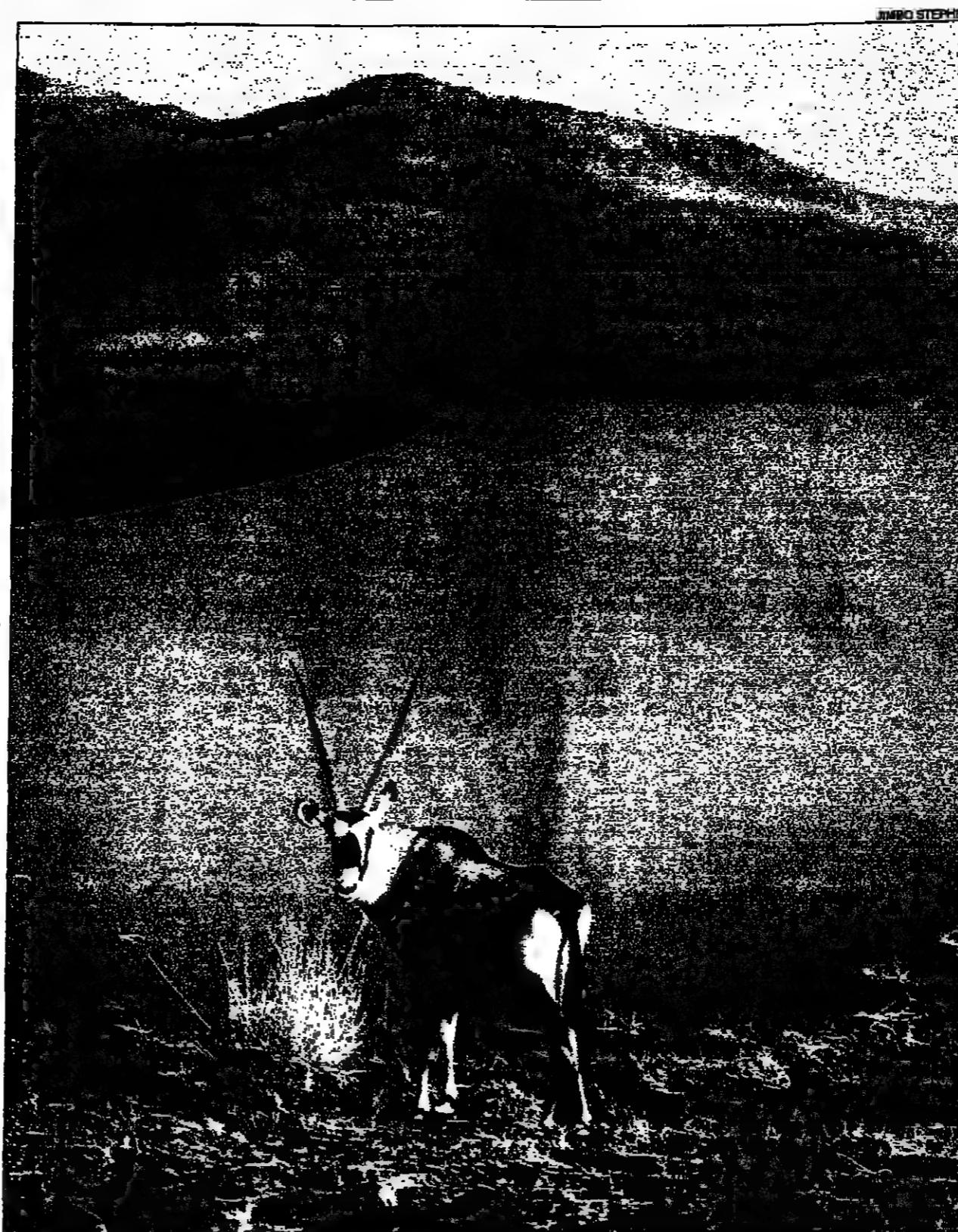
He flew with Air Namibia.

He travelled in Namibia with Mike Hearn of Save the Rhino Trust, who will be guiding a number of tours with Desert Adventure Safaris.

□ The itinerary includes time at Huab Lodge, a delightful and restful place on the edge of Damaraland. There is also excellent game viewing to be had at Hobatere.

□ A three-day extension is available at the stunning Waterberg Plateau. The price for a 17-day safari is £2,535.

Beauty and the beast: the oryx is a sight to behold with its black mask and white socks



JIMMY STEPHENS  
AFRICA TIPS

□ Explore Worldwide (01252 344611) offers a 16-day Kenyan safari, which includes a visit to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. It departs on June 30 and costs £1,395 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, hotel and camping accommodation, most meals and tour guides.

□ Walking tours in Morocco are offered by Headwater Holidays (01606 48699). A ten-night trip explores the kasbahs of Ouarzazate and the hills and souks of Marrakech. Departing on March 16, it costs from £727 per person, including return flights from Heathrow and some meals.

□ Encounter (0171-370 6951) offers a 15-day expedition through the Ethiopian highlands, taking in the ancient site of Axum, the Simien National Park and the cave churches of Lalibela. The price, £595 per person, includes all transport, accommodation (mostly camping), food and entrance fees. Flights not included. Departs November 23 and December 7.

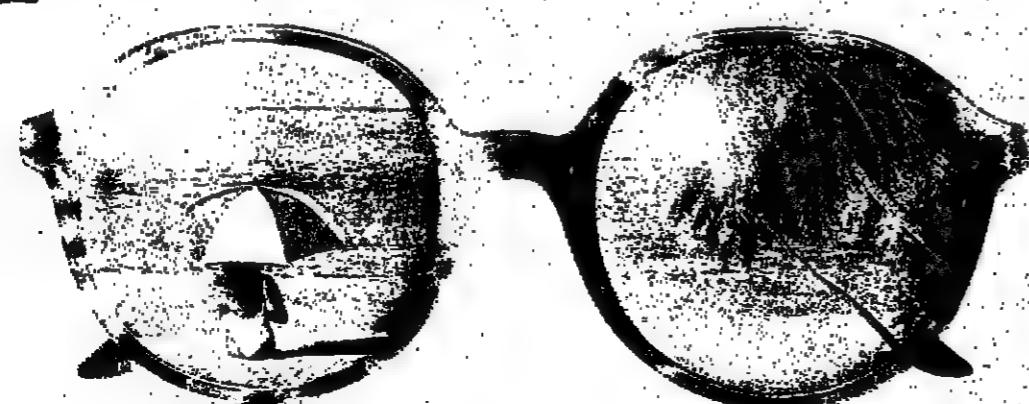
□ Guerilla Expeditions (0173 826611) has a 25-day Namibian expedition by 4x4 into the remote Kaokoland Wilderness. Highlights include trips to the ancient Himba tribe, Skeleton Coast and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. The cost, £1,660 per person, includes return flights from Heathrow. Food kitty of £170 required.

□ The Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612) offers an eight-day Kenyan safari through Samburu, Buffalo Springs, the Loldaiga Hills and Lake Nakuru. At £920 per person (based on two sharing), it includes two-night's lodge accommodation, camping, all meals on safari, entrance fees, transport and guides. Flights not included. Tours depart every Saturday.

□ The Art of Travel (0171-738 2039) has safaris from an elephant camp in Zimbabwe, taking in Jijima, Detsema and Imbaba. The cost, £1,985 per person, includes return flights from Gatwick, accommodation, all meals and drinks, park fees and guides. Departs April 11, April 20 and June 8.

□ *Africa by Road* by Bob Swain and Paula Snyder is a guide book recently published by Bradt Publications (01494 873478) at £12.95. Written for travellers wishing to explore the continent in their own vehicle, the guide provides details on driving techniques, equipment and information on countries.

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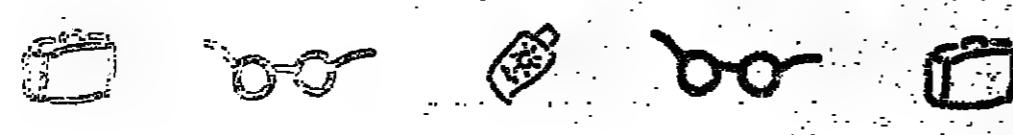
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## TRAVEL

EGYPT: Exploring the new pleasures of the Sinai peninsula and enjoying the splendours around Cairo



Tourism and the traditional way of life come together in the southern Sinai, which is being promoted as Egypt's next great visitor attraction

## Beaches and Beduin

The Sinai peninsula, with the Red Sea on either side and some of the most important biblical sites in between, is being promoted as Egypt's next great tourist attraction.

Twenty years ago, Sinai was almost inaccessible to the outside world. A scattering of army barracks, the temporary villages of Beduin tribes and a few tarmac roads were about the only human marks left since the Red Sea closed in on the pharaoh's spursuing army 3,000 years ago.

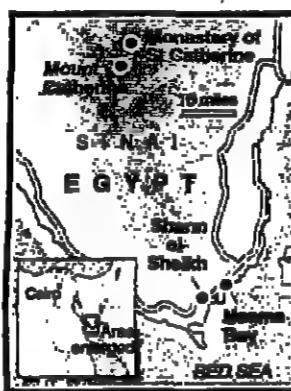
Tourism has taken off only in the past five years, but progress has been fast. Where Lawrence of Arabia once gathered his Beduin forces for raids against the Turks there are now huge "wedding cake" hotel rising from the sand.

Tourism is concentrated in the southern apex of the triangular peninsula, where a string of resorts have sprung out of the desert near the international airport at Sharm el Sheikh. A handful of British holiday companies are already

offering winter-sun and learn-to-dive packages, but it is the Italians who dominate. Egyptian waiters in the bars and restaurants of Sharm el Sheikh greet tourists with "ciao" rather than "hello", and the guides often speak better Italian than English. The effect is refreshing. Too many accessible winter sun spots have been discovered and, in some cases, already ruined by the British holiday industry.

The development of the coast continues apace, although the seemingly inexhaustible volume of land means that visitors are not bothered by building-site noises, as on the more crowded Mediterranean coasts.

Most of the development has been of tasteful and upmarket hotels. All the leading international chains are represented here, and there are two Hilton hotels at Sharm el Sheikh. Even so, prices are far from prohibitive. When the bottom fell out of the Egyptian tourism industry in 1993, following a spate of terrorist



attacks, Sinai became one of the holiday bargains of the world.

The great attraction is the diving, rated among the world's best. The Egyptian authorities know they have a world-class asset on their hands and protect it jealously. Breaking off or even touching the coral is forbidden and the number of visitors to the Ras Muhammed National Marine Park is controlled.

There are dozens of diving schools based in the resorts of

Sharm el Sheikh and Naama Bay, offering courses for beginners upwards. Exotic species of fish, from huge mantas rays to the beautiful but deadly poisonous lionfish, live in and around the coral reefs. Away from the hotel beaches the water is as clear as glass and even the humble snorkeller can feel like Jacques Cousteau floating above the multicoloured coral walls that line the Sinai coast.

The southern Sinai has much to offer visitors who do not feel the urge to slip on their flippers. As a simple winter getaway it scores well. The resort beaches are rocky rather than sandy, despite the surrounding desert, but a lunar backdrop of barren mountain ranges and brick-red cliffs make this a wildly spectacular place to flop in the sun. An hour's drive away by jeep, well beyond the reach of most tourists, there are glorious white sands that would make a developer weep.

The resorts offer little in the way of culture or history. They are creations of the last decade and most of the people working there are remittance men from Cairo. Within an easy day trip, however, are some of the most important religious sites, notably St Catherine's Monastery, where 15 Greek Orthodox monks scratch out a living at the site of the "burning bush". Nearby Mount Sinai is even more famous, though the spiritual atmosphere is now often marred by the hordes of less than reverential tourists.

An alternative trip from the coast is a camel ride into the desert to meet the increasingly tourist-dependent Beduin. There are about 70,000 of these nomads living in 25 tribes in the Sinai and, despite Government attempts to rehouse them, they have refused to give up their desert domain. The evening meal in a Beduin tent, watching the sun setting behind the shark-tooth mountains of the Sinai, is not to be missed.

JONATHAN PRYNN

## How to get there and where to stay

□ The author was a guest of Destination Red Sea (0181-440 9900). Seven-night B&B holidays at a four-star hotel in Sharm el Sheikh start from £389 per person based on two people sharing a room, and includes return flights from Gatwick.

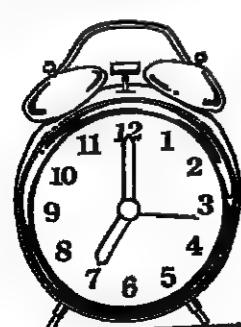
□ Five-day diving courses cost £175 per person, including weights, tanks and air. Seven nights in a unisex dormitory at the Red Sea College, including the diving course, costs from £439.

□ An evening camel ride into the desert to have a meal with a Beduin tribe costs about £20 a head. Two-day excursions to Mount Sinai and St Catherine's Monastery cost about £50 a head. Longer excursions are available to Cairo, Aqaba and Petra.

□ The author was a guest of Bales Tours (01306 515991), Oberoi Hotels at the Mena Garden at Giza, Hotel Sofitel at the Old Cataract Hotel, Arwan and the Old Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor, and of EgyptAir (0171-580 4239).

□ The Bales Grand Hotels of Egypt tour costs from £795 per person in the off-season in June (single supplement £275) rising to £1,245 for December 17 to 31 1996 (single supplement £395). Price includes B&B and return flights from London.

□ Tour guides for the sites mentioned could be organised at a total price of about £214, including English-speaking guide, driver and car and entrance fees, but not tips.

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## Temples and tombs of the grand tour

Shuffling out on to the already warming balcony of my hotel room in Cairo, I was presented with compelling evidence that I was indeed staying at one of the grandest hotels in the world. Soaring above the palm trees and the swimming pool in the tropical gardens was the pyramid of Chephren, honey-coloured in the morning sun.

I had arrived at the Oberoi Mena Gardens Hotel at Giza at the start of a seven-day trip to Egypt which was designed to show off three of the country's most beautiful hotels as much as the treasures of antiquity.

The 14-day Grand Hotels of Egypt tour had been compressed into seven days for our party, giving a first-time visitor to Egypt, like myself, a feeling of sensory overload as we transferred from one magnificent site to another via the glittering elegance of our five-star accommodation.

We had the benefit of a tour manager, Joanna Bales, the company's operations manager, who ushered us from one stop to another via temples and tombs at least 4,000 years old. We also had an Egyptian guide, Mohammed Gamal, a 28-year-old university graduate in tourism, who helped to bring the carvings and paintings alive for us with stories of ancient Egypt.

It was at the Mena Garden hotel in 1943 that Churchill and President Roosevelt met to discuss how to end the Second World War. For a supplement of £90 per person per night you can stay where they were billeted, in the old palace section of the hotel with its gigantic chandelier and arabic wood panels. We had to make do with breakfast on Churchill's balcony.

The stay in Cairo took in a visit to the pyramids, which culminated in a slightly unnerving crawl along a tunnel into the heart of the second-largest pyramid at Giza, the Pyramid of Khafre. The battered Sphinx was in mid restoration.

The highlight of Cairo was the Egyptian Museum in the centre of the city. This gorgeous, shambolic treasure house really demands days, if not weeks, of study. Exhibits are crammed into its galleries, corridors and halls so that you almost stumble by accident upon the Tutankhamun collection with its jewels and vast gilded wooden tomb furniture.

The exquisite gold funerary mask is in a side room, in a nondescript glass case.

On to Aswan and the Old Cataract Hotel with its views over the Nile and its islands.

Built in 1899, it boasts an historic guest list which includes Agatha Christie, Sir Winston Churchill and Czar Nicholas II. For a guaranteed view of the Nile you need to pay a supplement of £10 per

night per person. It's worth it. The balcony view offers a biblical scene, with the white sails of the traditional feluccas. On a hill opposite sits the squat form of the Aga Khan's mausoleum. The Old Cataract has a rather unprepossessing modern sister, the New Cataract, which resembles a multistorey car park.

From the Old Cataract, which many would recognise from its backdrop appearance in the film of the Agatha Christie story *Death on the Nile*, we were treated to a river trip on a felucca, a flight to visit Abu Simbel — the vast temple rescued and relocated to escape the rising waters created by the High Dam — and the beautiful Temple at Philae, another site moved from the path of the waters.

The final hotel on the trip was the Old Winter Palace at Luxor, another short flight up the Nile. Built as an hotel by Thomas Cook at the end of the last century, and set in tropical gardens on the banks of the great river, it was later used by King Farouk as his winter resort home.

From the front steps of the palace you can catch a ferry to the west bank and take a bus ride to the Valley of the Kings.

Despite the daytime heat — it was about 45C — one of the advantages of visiting Egypt during the unpopular summer season is that the crowds of tourists at the magnificent tombs are thinner. You have more time to study the paintings and carvings and wonder at it all.

The temple complex at Karnak is probably too large ever to get crowded. It is simply a place to stroll around, listen to your guide and marvel.

JOHN WELLMAN

## Fact file

□ The author was a guest of Bales Tours (01306 515991), Oberoi Hotels at the Mena Garden at Giza, Hotel Sofitel at the Old Cataract Hotel, Arwan and the Old Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor, and of EgyptAir (0171-580 4239).

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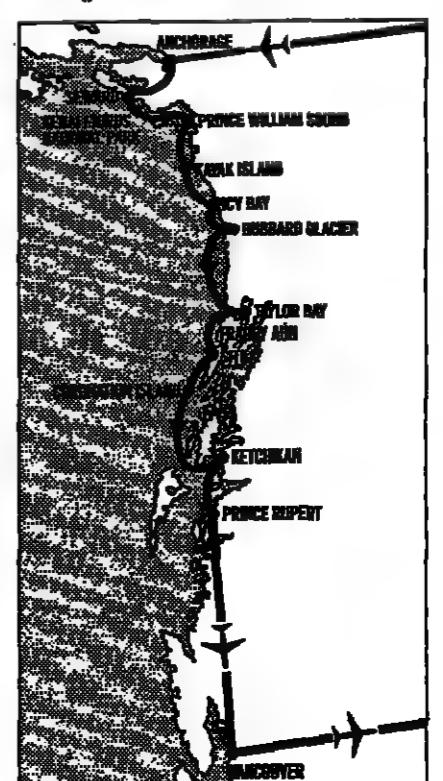
Prior to joining the World Discoverer we will spend some time in Anchorage and following the cruise there will be two nights in Vancouver, without doubt one of the most attractive cities on the North American continent.

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## TRAVEL

23

SKIING: A shiver runs through it — but that has more to do with Lone Peak's rides than Montana's weather

## Big Sky's the limit for thrills and spills

By Thanksgiving Day last year the snow was already deep in the Beaverhead range of south-west Montana. The grizzlies had retreated to their dens.

The skiing conditions were the best in America — but they would have been even better a month earlier. An eight-foot base had done some melting since October.

Winter comes early to this lonesome reach of the Rockies. Cold air from the far north mixes with moisture from the Pacific, turning Yellowstone Park white and one neighbouring mountain into a miniature Everest.

That mountain is Lone Peak, rising to 11,166ft from the gorge of the Gallatin river in which Brad Pitt wood a

million palpitating hearts in the film *A River Runs Through It*. A new lift that vaults up Lone Peak's north face now gives Big Sky, the purpose-built village below it, the most "vertical feet" of any ski resort in America.

A hundred miles to the south, the better-known ski town of Jackson Hole in the craggy Grand Tetons still has the country's biggest drop for a single run. But Big Sky's vertical feet — the plumb-line distance from the top of its highest lift to the bottom of its lowest — are not to be sniffed at.

For one thing, they give Europeans spoilt by huge lift systems such as those of the Three Valleys and Tignes-Val d'Isère some assurance that they will break sweat before reaching the bottom. For another, the top of Lone Peak is one of the few places in America where skiers can be scared wifless without having to sign a waiver promising not to sue if they get hurt.

The lift alone is enough to induce vertigo. There are no pylons, just a Tardis-like capsule with standing room for 15 people slung beneath a single loop of high-tension cable. The ride is a four-minute lurch from base camp to summit. It looks similar to one of the world's oldest and hairiest cable car journeys, high above Chamonix, from Le Brevent across a chasm to a nearby cliff.

A Big Sky spokesman ex-



The only thing likely to sabotage Big Sky's skiing is the fierce wind but you can always go bison spotting in a snowmobile in Yellowstone Park

plained with some anxiety that from the top there is no easy way down except in the lift. The entire summit cone is designated double black diamond, or "extreme". Below it, the options are named with all the verve and subtlety of the Old West — names such as Hanging Wall, Dirt Bag Wall, Dictator, Chutes and Bone Crusher.

Despite this, the resort's owner, a youthful entrepreneur called John Kircher, says the new skiing is "European-like". I had to take his word for it. October's heavy snows had delayed completion of the £3 million Lone Peak tram.

forcing workers to continue their welding into December. They said it was no worse than maintaining oil rigs in northern Alaska. Meanwhile, five of the resort's 12 lifts provided quite enough excitement for a long weekend before you even put your skis on.

Before Austrian engineers plotted the conquest of Lone Peak, Big Sky was known for its long, easy cruising runs through the trees on the mountain's lower slopes. But it also had plenty of what the cowboys hereabouts call steep 'n' deep, reached by a chairlift called the Challenger that gives northerly views of Montana's high plains and east-

ward ones of Yellowstone — grizzly country.

There is little doubt that with a fully functioning Lone Peak tram, a week's visit would be worth the hassle of the nine-hour flight from Gatwick.

The only thing likely to sabotage the wildest of Big Sky's skiing is the wind, the fierce norwesterly that blows down the Bitterroot range from Canada and could, says Mr Kircher, keep the top of Lone Peak shut for half the season.

In that event there is always snow-mobiling to be done in Yellowstone (provided Kawa-

saki can conform to new National Parks Service standards by building quieter machines so as not to wake the bears). And, in the evenings, there is line-dancing to be learnt on the sawdust and sprung timbers of Lone Mountain Ranch.

Big Sky was founded in 1973 by a retired NBC newscaster called Chet Huntley. For most of the 23 years since his creation has been able to claim an absence of lift queues, or, as one American ski magazine put it, a maximum of elbow room. This could change.

Another NBC newscaster, Tom Brokaw, owns a massive ranch not far away. So does Ted Turner, the founder of CNN. There is an encroaching trendiness about this corner of America that *A River Runs Through It* did nothing to dispel, and to encourage waverers Big Sky is subsidising weekend flights from Seattle and Minneapolis to Bozeman, which is an hour's drive away.

For now, though, the resort enjoys many of the blessings of isolation. Do not expect to find gourmet mountain restaurants or string quartets playing in the lobby of the Huntley Lodge. But don't be surprised, either, to see a wolf prowling around the bottom lift station.

GILES WHITTELL

## Factfile

□ The author was a guest of Huntley Lodge. Booked independently, a double room costs \$167 (£110) a night. Big Sky Central Reservations (00 1 406 995 5000) serves the hotel and the adjoining Shoshone self-catering condominiums.

□ Lift passes, £43 (£28 a day, £228 (£149 for six days. For children under ten, lift passes and accommodation at Huntley Lodge are free.

□ Resort height, 7,500ft.

Average snowfall, 32ft per year. Skiing range, 6,970ft-11,500ft. Lifts, 12.

Eighty miles of runs, of which 10 per cent suit beginners, 47 per cent intermediates and 43 per cent advanced skiers.

Cross-country trails, about 47 miles.

□ Crystal Holidays (0181 241 4000) and Ski the American Dream (0181 470 1181) offer packages to Big Sky with flights from Gatwick via Minneapolis on Northwest Airlines. Ski the American Dream offers seven days at the ski-in-ski-out Huntley Lodge Hotel in peak season (March), including breakfast and return flights, but not lift passes, for £545 per person sharing a double room. Children under ten, £405. A 14-day package costs £1,259.



The Tardis-like lift vaults up Lone Peak's north face

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## GAMES

25

## CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ONE of the most fascinating games from Kasparov's recent victory against the Deep Blue computer was game four. The standard method against computers is to keep the position closed and strategic, and if possible suppress any tactics. Here Kasparov's inclination to attack got the better of him. Deep Blue sidestepped a number of poisonous traps, and ultimately it was Kasparov who had to fight to save the draw.

I take up the game after white's dramatic 22nd move: 22 Bf5



A fascinating decision. My inclination would have been a quiet move such as 22 Kh2, leaving Black with the onus of finding a continuation.

22 ... Bxf5. Curiously, Deep Blue had "crashed" before this move and a 20-minute interval ensued before it could be restarted. Before the crash, Kasparov had been expecting Deep Blue to accept the pawn sacrifice by 22 ... Bxf5, when he claimed that he would have had a win available that was beyond the computer's analytical horizon. Did the crash divert Deep Blue from what might have been its original intention?

Let us look at what could occur after the expected move 22 ... Bxf5.

Now White has to force the pace with the sacrifice 23 Nxf7+, after which Black has three possibilities:

(a) 23 ... Bxf2 and now 24 Nxf6+ gxf6 25 Qxf2 is unexpectedly strong for White who threatens Qg6+, e.g. 25 ... Kf7 (not 25 ... Rxe3 26 Qg6+ and Qxf6+) 26 Rxe3

Nxf7 27 Rxf7 Kxf7 28 Qh7 is immediately decisive) 28 Qh7

is immediately decisive) 28 Qh7

and the exposed black king will

soon succumb to the white attack. It is very difficult to see a defence for Black after 25 Qxc2.

(b) 23 ... Kxf7 is poor on account of 24 Rxe3 Nxe3 25 Bxf5 and White regains material equality (25 ... Qxf5 26 Rf5) while maintaining a powerful initiative.

(c) 23 ... Rxe3 is the best move, with a powerful continuation of 24 Nxb6+ gxf6 25 Rxe3 Bxc2 (25 ... Nh5 is possible; then White can consider 26 Rxf5 Bxc2 27 Rxf5, with a strong initiative) 26 Qxf5 Qf8 27 Qxf5 with two pawns and a continuing initiative for the piece.

23 Nxf5 Bxf5 24 Rxf5+ Nxe3 25 Rxe5 Nh5 26 Rxf5 Nf5

Superficially White has a great advantage. White's knight is exposed to threats on its own back rank.

25 Rxf5 Nf5. Deep Blue renews its knight, using the obvious threat of ... Rf1+ along the way. 36 Bf3 Nf3. Black has given up a pawn, but this is purely temporary. Its knight has attained a dominating position and White's queen-side pawns are ripe for the harvest. White is now clearly on the defensive.

37 Qh4 Qxf2 38 Qg3 Qxe3 39 Rxe3 Qf7 40 Rxf7 Nf5

This sacrifice is the neatest way of ensuring a draw.

42 Rxf5 Nxf5 43 Qxf5 Rxf5 44 Qh4+ Kf8 45 Bf5 Qd4 46 Kf2 Qf5 47 Qe7 Qd4 48 Kf3 Qf5

Draw agreed.

Fortunately for Kasparov, he can still oscillate his bishop between h5 and g6, so Black can do nothing.

## WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Illsley-Rachels, New York 1987. How did White create insoluble problems for his opponent in this simple-looking position? White to play.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Bxg5.

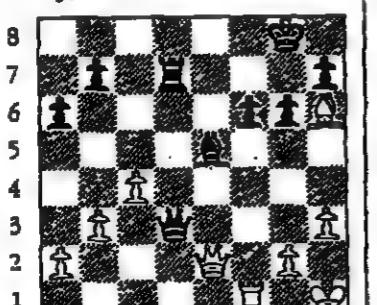


Diagram of a chessboard showing a position where White is to play. White has a pawn on g5 and a pawn on f5. Black has a pawn on e5. The rest of the board is mostly empty with a few pieces on the periphery."/>

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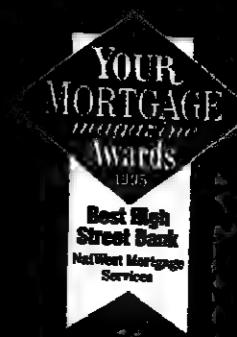
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# Police given health warning on new CS gas canister

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE in England and Wales are on patrol yesterday armed with CS gas sprays in spite of warnings about possible health risks.

More than 2,000 officers have been issued with the canisters. The gas can incapacitate an assailant within seconds, but the 16 forces taking part in the six-month trial have been warned that it may also cause facial and eye injuries which could lead to damages claims.

The solvent used as a propellant in the French-made canisters can cause secondary effects of skin reddening, scaling and blistering, according to a report by the Association of Chief Police Officers. It added that less research had been carried out on the solvent used as a propellant in the canisters than the association had been given to understand.

Three police officers involved in testing the gas are seeking damages for injuries.

The five-inch-long canisters, already used by police in Belgium and France, are carried in a belt pouch. They contain CS in powder form which can be propelled up to three metres by a solvent, MIBK, aimed at the attacker's face. Officers will be asked to complete questionnaires after using the spray.

A Metropolitan Police inspector is one of three officers seeking compensation for skin blistering suffered after exposure to CS during testing by Northamptonshire Police. The force would not disclose the sum being sought.

Ian Walker, a solicitor representing the three officers, said: "They suffered most unpleasant burns and in one

case the spray was put directly into his eyes and that is what caused the burning to the eyeballs.

"If this sort of thing is going to happen to members of the public, it is very worrying."

Ministers have been under pressure to provide the police with additional protection. Paul Kermaghan, assistant chief constable of North Yorkshire, which is testing the sprays, said: "I would accept there may possibly be an adverse health reaction. However, I would not consider this to be severe on the basis of the advice available to me."

"These sprays have been subject to rigorous testing by independent scientific and medical advisers. We have been told by the Home Office and the Department of Health that the product we are trialling is the best available, so we are operating on the basis of their professional advice."



Police with one of the arrested men. They threw him to the ground and bound his hands with plastic cord



PC Caroline Corrie carrying the CS spray

## Jailed sergeant is cleared by judge

By RICHARD DUKE

POLICE sergeant who had a heart attack after he was jailed for assaulting a 13-year-old boy had his conviction quashed on appeal yesterday.

Sergeant Rod Adams, who spent 24 hours in solitary confinement at Brixton prison because of fear of criminal reprisals, was cheered and congratulated by 20 fellow officers as he left the dock at Southwark Crown Court, London.

Sgt Adams, 39, supported by his wife Sue, said afterwards: "It has been a nightmare, absolutely terrible. My world fell apart. I was traumatised, having nightmares and not sleeping." He had been jailed for 28

days by Bow Street magistrates last January on a charge of assault against the boy at Harrow police station in February 1995. He was released after 24 hours pending appeal.

Yesterday Judge Rivlin, QC, rejected the evidence of a police officer who was the main prosecution witness. He said there was too much evidence contradicting PC James Carter, 38, who said he saw Sgt Adams grab the boy by the throat and push him against a wall.

Michael Bromley-Carter, representing Sgt Adams, said: "Carter misconstrued and exaggerated what happened." Sgt Adams said he had used "reasonable force" to restrain the boy, who was lashing out with his arms and legs.



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seasons  
Page 5



Flying  
wife who  
wins in  
a pink  
Peugeot  
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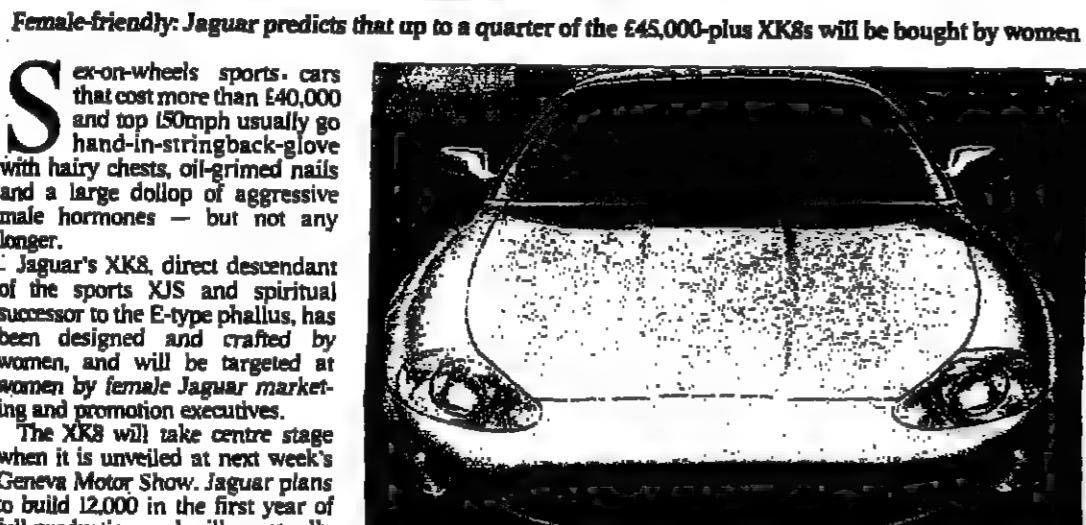
SATURDAY MARCH 2 1996

Vaughan Freeman on the 160mph car designed for women by women

## Jaguar's XK8, the female of the species



AUTOCAR



Good-looker: from the same design team that produced the XJ6 saloon

**S**ex-on-wheels: sports cars that cost more than £40,000 and top 150mph usually go hand-in-stringback-glove with hairy chests, oil-grimed nails and a large dollop of aggressive male hormones — but not any longer.

Jaguar's XK8, direct descendant of the sports XJS and spiritual successor to the E-type phallus, has been designed and crafted by women, and will be targeted at women by female Jaguar marketing and promotion executives.

The XK8 will take centre stage when it is unveiled at next week's Geneva Motor Show. Jaguar plans to build 12,000 in the first year of full production and will eventually sell up to 16,000 a year worldwide.

The company predicts that up to a quarter of all XK8s will be bought by women, and in the vital North American market that figure will be more than a third.

The challenge has been to make this 300bhp, 4-litre, 32-valve V8 sports car "female-friendly" without turning it into a "girly" car disdained by ego-fragile males. Performance will be better than that of the Mercedes-Benz SLS00, which means a top speed of 160mph and a 0-60mph time of under six seconds. When it goes on sale in October it will be priced between £45,000 and £50,000.

Jaguar chairman Nick Scheele says: "The car will be particularly attractive to professional women who are out to make a statement. Women don't buy cars because they are a pretty pastel shade. They buy cars because they deliver what they want, and right from day one on the XK8 project we have had a number of women on the team."

"With their input we have ensured there is enough clearance around door pulls and release catches so that they can be used without breaking nails. The handbrake has been designed so that it does not snag on skirts, radio buttons can be used comfortably by slender fingers. Door clearances have been designed so that a woman wearing a skirt or a dress can get in and out without difficulties."

The XK8 is the result of nearly three years work by a 30-strong Jaguar team led by chief designer Geoff Lawson. The same people were behind the present XJ6 saloon series, voted most beautiful car in

**THE NEW BUYERS**

- Women are the new power in car buying, according to the latest figures from the Lex Report on Motoring. Researchers discovered women bought more new cars last year than men — a fact underlined by manufacturers.
- Women account for 63 per cent of sales of the Tigra, Vauxhall's coupé obviously appealing to feminine instincts. The buyers are typically aged between 25 and 40, have a professional or managerial job, enjoy fitness, travel and entertaining and fast style as a key reason for their choice.
- And even when a man buys a car, his wife or girlfriend is likely to play a key part.

the world by the Italians, as well as the XJ220 supercar.

The man with specific responsibility for styling the XK8 is Fergus Pollock who has worked full time on the car since programme approval was given. A separate engineering team has been working to develop a new V8 engine based on a design from parent company Ford and to adapt it for the Jaguar, a departure from the V12s or straight six cylinder engines for which the company is renowned.

Jaguar executive Amanda Chick, who is in charge of the multi-million pound marketing budget for the XK8, said: "We played with

it appealing to the two sexes," she said. "It harks back to the E-type in its shape and has more of a unisex look, away from hard edges, and is more feminine, but without any loss of the car's aggressive stance."

Anderson and her team have developed new ranges of metallic and pearlescent colours for the car to give customers, especially women, as wide a choice as possible. Inside, lighter shades have been introduced, although, says Anderson, the classic, traditional Jaguar leather and wood trim has always been popular with women.

"I don't think anybody is going to



Karen Anderson: "It harks back to the E-type in its shape and is more feminine, but without any loss of the car's aggressive stance"

see the XK8 as a female car," she added. "It has got a presence about it and it makes a statement, and that statement is that this is the car that is going to take Jaguar into the next century."

Jaguar finance director Bibiana Boero, who heads the XK8 sales campaign, had huge fun while test-driving the car and feeding her impressions back to the engineers. Producing a new car is a complex and costly business, but for Boero, Jaguar's latest venture brought to her job huge fun.

"Making sure things go right for

the customer does not mean putting a pink colour in for the women and being condescending," she said. "I just want my car to go like hell and be safe and secure, offer good comfort and go well round the curves. I am an enthusiastic driver. I recall one stretch of road when I was driving the XK8 and we were behind a truck for quite some time.

"There was an open stretch leading up to a curve and I was able to overtake, and the feeling as the accelerator and the whole powertrain combined was really smooth, quick and responsive. I just thought 'Oh wow!'"

Male or female, it is that "Oh

wow!" factor, for looks and performance, that will decide whether or not XK8 is worthy successor to the E-Type heritage.

And why XK8? Jaguar searched long and hard for the right name for its new car. The F-type (following the E-type) was ruled out because Ferrari already has a couple of "F" cars.

The letters XK have adorned some of the fastest and best looking Jaguars in the past. So the letters carry on Jaguar's sports heritage, while the 8 is a tribute to the engine, Jaguar's first V8 even if it is built at Ford's Bridgend plant in South Wales.

# Would you describe a Picasso as second-hand?

Mercedes-Benz  
Used Cars



The slope was mountainous, the mud horrendous, the drivers nervous... Kevin Eason watched the results

# It can be awfully hard to rise to the occasion

By the time Andrew Pack reached the top, the blood had drained out of his face and into the muddied hubcap of his Vauxhall Frontera. It had all seemed so easy at the start... until he looked through his rain-streaked windscreen at the sheer face of mud that confronted him. This was a driver more used to navigating the tricky twists and turns of Sainsbury's car park than something that looked like the North Face of the Eiger covered in glue. It was going to be one of those days.

But Andrew and his wife, Caron, were in good company. Dozens of motorists with four-wheel-drive vehicles, whose only previous experience of off-roading was parking with two wheels on the pavement, were facing 80 miles of stomach-heaving, suspension-graunting rough track.

The Midland Auto Trader 4-Wheel Drive Day is the one chance in the year that they get to do what their cars were designed to do. They turned up in the car park of the Haycock Hotel in Wansford on the outskirts of Peterborough, paid their entrance fee and, with some rigorous advice and careful marshalling, ploughed around the quarries and fields of Cambridgeshire up to their bonnet badges in water and mud for the day.

The fact that they were going off road at all was extraordinary enough, for members of the 4x4 tribe are notoriously known as wimpies with more money than sense. There is little sadder sight in the world of motoring than owners of cars built like tanks who swoon when their precious upholstery is sullied by as much as a crumb from an errant Digestive.

Even worse are the manufacturers, who build vehicles that look as though they could bulldoze their way through a sheet of steel when the nearest they will get to going off road is on the gravel drive to the front door. In the commercials, their vehicles can go straight up the side of a glacier with the driver filing his nails and working out next week's shopping list; in reality, some of these machines struggle to cope with the gradient of a sleeping policeman.

At least the drivers who turned out last week now know what their vehicles can — and, more significantly for some — can't do. And did they get the chance to find out.

The rain was bouncing off the windscreen like mortar shells as they set off for the notorious hill climb. The terrified expressions on the faces of the first-time off-roaders were almost moving, like watching troops about to go over the top on the battlefield of the Somme. The first sheer 50-foot drop was more a test of nerve than skill, simply because the driver had to shove the gearbox into low ratio, select first gear, nose to the precipice and then let the vehicle drop over the edge — no hands required, no feet on the pedals.

Tracey Griggs, a first-timer in a Ford Maverick with co-driver Lynda Hodgkinson, admitted that she gulped at that moment: "It is one thing for the instructors to tell you to take your feet off the pedals, but



Andrew and Caron Pack's Vauxhall Frontera after its mudbath



First-timer Tracey Griggs: "The instinct is to go for the brakes"

it is another thing when you look over the edge. The instinct is to go for the brakes."

Added Lynda: "I just wanted to get out."

So did Andrew Pack, I suspect. While Tracey and Lynda were on their breathless way down, Andrew was attempting to go up — spectacularly unsuccessfully, as it turned out. Brow furrowed and jaw set, he pointed the bull bars of the silver Frontera at the hill and gunned the turbo-diesel... which resulted in the wheels spinning and the tyres throwing up a spectacular mud fountain before the car slithered gently back into the mud pond at the bottom to squat like a bullfrog on a lily pad.

The answer was to try a less — but not much — steep way out. Tim

Nicol paved the way in his Land Rover Discovery, whizzing up the muddy slope, the big Disco barely breaking into a trot. Tim and his wife, Joanne, bought the Discovery a couple of years ago and were hooked on off-roading at last year's event, even buying a set of off-road wheels and tyres. The practice obviously helped, because the couple went on to win the event and the prize of a weekend break for two, rally jackets and champagne.

The Nicols were among the motorists much admired by Simon Morris, one of the organisers. "The great thing is that people bring their own vehicles and risk their shiny paintwork," he said. "We had a guy last year who had bought his Range Rover a couple of weeks before and just about wrecked the

vehicle. But he had a fantastic time and discovered how good his car was off road. People who do this course love it."

Meanwhile, Andrew's Frontera was sliding serenely backwards down the gender slope for the second time. Caron's expression was one of patient fortitude, almost understanding the time-consuming virtue of trying and trying again.

Perhaps they could study the technique of another driver for some tips. Not much help there though: next up was Jim Townley, Midland Auto Trader's marketing manager, whose effort was so wonderfully hopeless that he won the official "Wally" award. He cut

the power of his Maverick at the vital moment and spun the steering wheel, which turned the car sideways. As soon as it stopped, the Maverick teetered ready to tip over and slide back down the hill on its side. The marshalls' helpful advice was for Jim's girlfriend, Mel, to cuddle up to her embarrassed driver to transfer the weight and keep the Maverick upright until they could winch the pair to safety.

Andrew and Caron were still all alone at the bottom of a hill that could have been Everest surrounded by barbed wire for all their chances of getting over it. As they waited, a black streak flashed by: it was the Maverick of Paul Radisich, the British Touring Cars champion who had swapped the race track for the mud track. What his approach lacked in subtlety was more than compensated by speed. It didn't seem to matter what size the obstacle was, he simply pressed the accelerator to the floor, pointed the bonnet and hoped for the best. He seemed to emerge from the hill at 120mph, presumably contemplating a handbrake turn at the top.

Seeing the flying Maverick can't have done much for confidence in the Pack's Frontera as it sat forlornly on caked mud wheels that had once turned so proudly and confidently on tarmac. The marshals took pity and let them take the easy way out over a gentle, bracken-covered slope. The couple had spent the best part of half an hour in that mud hole, probably wondering whether they would get out in time to complete the rest of

IF YOU want to be King of the Hill, choose wisely. The 4x4 market is divided into Gladiators and cars that get sand kicked into their windscreens. The Midland Auto Trader 4x4 separated six-stone weedings from cars that really could tackle mud and mountains. So here is the Car 96 guide to the best off-roaders.

• LAND ROVER DEFENDER: V8-powered, short wheelbase Defenders clambered up gradients that looked beyond everything else except goats. If you are serious about off-roading, the Defender is the original, and remains King of the Mud. Prices — £15,803 to £20,821.

• LAND ROVER DISCOVERY: Ned best thing, but comes with luxuries and legroom. Ignore Japanese imitations. Prices, £18,676 to £29,335.

• RANGE ROVER: Should be too easy for mud-plugging, but will go anywhere while driver and passengers recline in gorgeous comfort, fantastic stereo blaring and drinks chilling in the boot. Nothing else like it, but you need Nick Leeson's chequebook. Prices, £24,000 to £24,550.

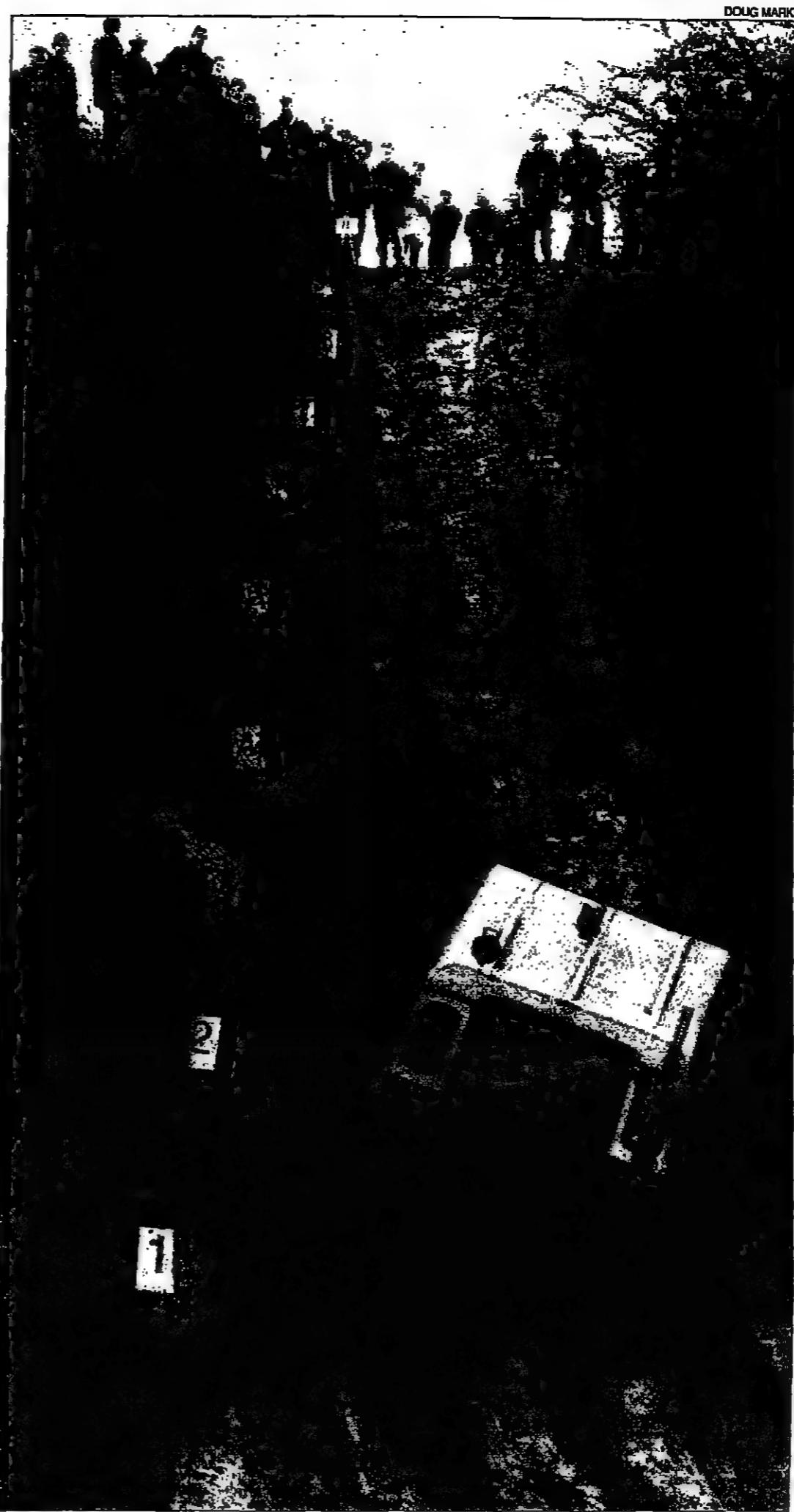
• MITSUBISHI SHOGUN: A fine competitor for Range Rover, but lacking the same aura, includes short wheelbase version in the line-up, although 3.5 V8 one to go for. Prices, £18,879 to £26,789.

• ISUZU TROOPER/VAUXHALL MONTEREY: Same vehicle, different badges. Second best but capable and cheap, if uncharismatic. Prices, Isuzu: £17,998 to £24,798; Vauxhall: £21,573 to £27,165.

• VAUXHALL FRONTERA: Big, butch and about as tough off road as Julian Clary. Ask Andrew Pack. Prices, £14,695 to £19,995.

• DAIHATSU FOURTRAX/SPORTRAK: For those that can't afford the real thing. Cheap and cheerful. Prices, £9,995 to £17,495.

• SUZUKI VITARA: Only fashion victims need apply. About as appealing as white satinette and denim skirt — and about as much use in the mud. Prices, £9,750 to £15,475.



A bit steep: the faces of the first-time off-roaders were like troops about to go over the top at the Somme

## The hand that rocks the cradle goes into higher gear in the fast lane

Helen Mound meets Shelly Taunt, Wiltshire's Flying Housewife and fast-rising star of British rallying

On weekdays, 28-year-old Shelly Taunt is a soft-spoken housewife and mother from Wiltshire. At weekends she swaps her apron for motorsport overalls, climbs behind the wheel of a bright pink Peugeot 205 and thrashes her way through forests and across fields.

In spite of having a 19-month-old son, Stefan, to look after, Shelly is rapidly becoming one of Britain's top rally successes, although after giving up her job as a van driver when he arrived, taking up rally driving and competing in the same top rallies as World Champion, Colin McRae, was about as likely as a date with Kevin Costner.

"Rallying was the furthest thing from my mind when Stefan was born, but here I am, my second year rallying and it's brilliant," she laughs. She infiltrated the male-dominated sport last year by entering a competition held by a corporate motorsport entertainment company, Shropshire Rally School, and won a scholarship to compete in seven events. With no experience,

the woman who has become the "Flying Housewife" came home with some incredible results, including a victory in the final round of the Florist Ladies Championship. The reward was a

drive in the school's bright pink Ford Escort Cosworth and an entry in last year's biggest rally event, the Network Q RAC Rally.

Shelly is clearly elated by her new-found talent. Unfortunately, she had to retire on the second day of the RAC last year because of mechanical problems. The young housewife, with only seven rallies under her belt, might have been 95 places behind the winner, McRae, but she started in 17th position; had the car lasted the whole week, her team is certain Shelly could have pulled off a remarkable placing.

"That's why I have in have another go this year," she says. Supported by a host of sponsors, from Do-It-All to her local life insurance company, Shelly is set to take the 1996 rally scene by storm. Provisionally she does well, the rally

school has promised her

another drive in the Escort Cosworth at this year's RAC.

Her second rally season started last weekend alongside co-driver, Alison Winstanley, at the Bournemouth National Winter Rally where she displayed the same exceptional driving skills she showed last year. Competing in the British National Minis/Teleflorist Coupe des Dames.

Her victory was achieved against the odds with the car suffering a multitude of ailments. "As we crossed the start line on the Bournemouth seafront, the weather turned nasty. We were worried about waves coming on to the road, my wipers weren't working and the rev counter and fuel gauge were broken," she says.

"I couldn't see a thing. The tarmac stages weren't too bad but the puddles in the forest were terrible, covering the car in muddy water, and, with no wipers, there was no way I could see where I was going. We were just guessing.

It's a shame I missed the

first rally because it's my local

event and I know the route,"

says Debbie. The 22-year-old

student's driving caught the

school's attention last year and she was asked to join its ladies' team alongside Shelly. She says: "I haven't got very far in events in the past because I was privately funded and the money was tight."

Debbie has not had as much

experience in rallying as most

of the drivers she is up against — one season in a Peugeot 309 GTI two years ago and a few events last year in a Vauxhall Astra GSi — but there will be plenty of competition with Shelly at the next rally at Greenwich on March 30.

"I haven't worked in a team

before with drivers in the same

class, so I think there's going to be a lot of competition between us."

But Debbie knows she is up

against seriously quick competi-

tion in the shape of Shelly.

She says: "If there are team

orders and I have to stand

aside for Shelly, then I will."

And she might have hit the

brakes and turn into a layby

quick to get out of the way of

that other speeding pink Ford

— because the "Flying House-

wife" is gunning to get past the

best of the men.



Alison Winstanley, left, and Shelly Taunt: "Rallying was the furthest thing from my mind when Stefan was born"

and the spot lights

weren't working either."

"You can't expect an easy

ride. At least we didn't have

any punctures and we got a lot

of help from spectators pushing

us when we got stuck," she

says. "I'm chuffed to pieces

with the result and even

happier that it was an all-female crew that beat so many male competitors."

Shropshire Rally School has

found not one, but two lady

drivers that could be the

fastest women on wheels in the

country. Last weekend's rally

might have been tougher for

Shelly if team-mate Debbie

Garlic had been competing.

But the school's number two

driver could only enjoy the

event as a spectator because

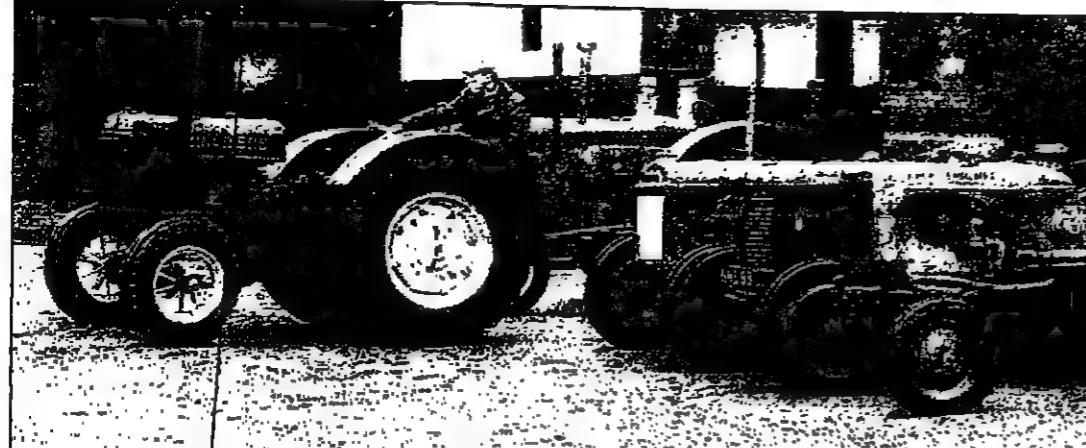
her Peugeot 106 Rallye — also

bright pink — wasn't ready.



When Martin Brown was eight he drove his first tractor and discovered a passion. Stuart Birch reports

## A collector who is buying his boyhood back



Rural classics: "The most I've paid is £4,000, but a rare type might make £20,000," says Martin

**H**APPINES for Martin Brown is a tractor. Any tractor. It's been like that for half a century and now he has a veritable family of them. At the age of eight, while his school friends were collecting Dinky toys and tinplate model vehicles, he was already into the real thing.

"We lived in Worcestershire and I loved watching the farmers using their machinery. One day our farmer neighbour said, 'Can you drive a tractor? He obviously needed help, so I said yes!'

Martin clambered onto the old, Fordson N, struggled with the controls for a moment then set off: "It was towing a binder, which the farmer operated. I was terrified, but I'd ridden in tractors before so I knew pretty well what to do. Also, my father had me drive his Ford Anglia, so I understood the rudiments of a clutch and gearbox."

Today it is illegal for a child under 13 to drive a tractor on the land, but in the 1940s, health and safety regulations were a shade more lax. The adventure ended without disaster: Martin Brown had become a tractor driver. But in the process he had caught tractoritis, if which, in his case, a cure is neither sought nor likely.

In the years that followed, Martin drove every type of tractor he could find. To him, the barns around his home were like giant toy cupboards. Behind their doors lay chugging, nobly-tyred delights: "My mother was a bit apprehensive, but my father didn't object and was completely happy out there in the fields."

"I learnt the art of not stalling the engine, there were few self-starters in those days and I was too small to restart it by hand and the walk back to the farm could be miles."

Fifty years later, Martin can relive those bucolic days. While many men of his age might dabble in a little nostalgic collecting to remind themselves of childhood — perhaps of those dastardly Dinky or tinplate toys — he collects tractors. Real ones, of course. "I want to collect all the tractors I drove between the age of eight and 21. I have a couple of duplicates, but I still need another four."

The 13, all in working order, are lined up in an Essex barn, their years of serious ploughing and pulling and mud-ploughing behind them. Now they are cherished, even loved. For, like classic cars, there are classic tractors, and a collector may wax as lyrical about a Minneapolis Moline or a grey 'Fergie' as a car buff about a Ferrari or Aston Martin.

"This is a pretty modest collection. I know a farmer who has 45," says Martin as he prepares to start the 8.2-litre engine of an American John Deere by turning its giant, side-mounted flywheel. The engine has only two massive cylinders and emits sounds of mechanical flatulence as it strains into life. Like many of his tractors, it is started on petrol and switched to paraffin.

Martin began collecting when he decided he would like a Fordson N, identical to the one he had first driven as a boy. Working for Ford Tractor Operations and later becoming UK Sales Manager of Ford New Holland, he had a network of contacts and was tipped off about a Fordson in Denbigh, North Wales. It turned out to be a sort of friend of the family. Well past its final plough-by-date, it was supported on blocks, its engine seized. But owner John Evelyn Williams didn't really want to sell: "I sat with his family, drinking tea, eating scones and talking of this tractor as if it were a person. In the end, we agreed on a price of £50."

That was the beginning. Then Martin thought he would like an example of the second tractor he had driven... and the third... and the fourth... Some were bought privately, some at auction. "The most I've paid is £4,000, but a rare type, such as a Saunderson, might make £20,000. There was a time when classic cars were always being found in barns, but the search is also on for old tractors in good condition. I discovered that — I just saw the exhaust pipe sticking up in the gloom of a barn."

Fordsons dominated the scene in those days: in Second World War Britain, the models made in Dagenham accounted for 90 per cent of all tractors on the land. There are two models that he drove in those

early days that he especially wants to find: a John Deere AR, a 2-cylinder, petrol/paraffin model with a hand clutch imported from the United States in the mid 1930s, and an Allis Chalmers U, a 4-cylinder, petrol/paraffin model dating from the 1940s. It was an American-designed machine but only small numbers were used in Britain.

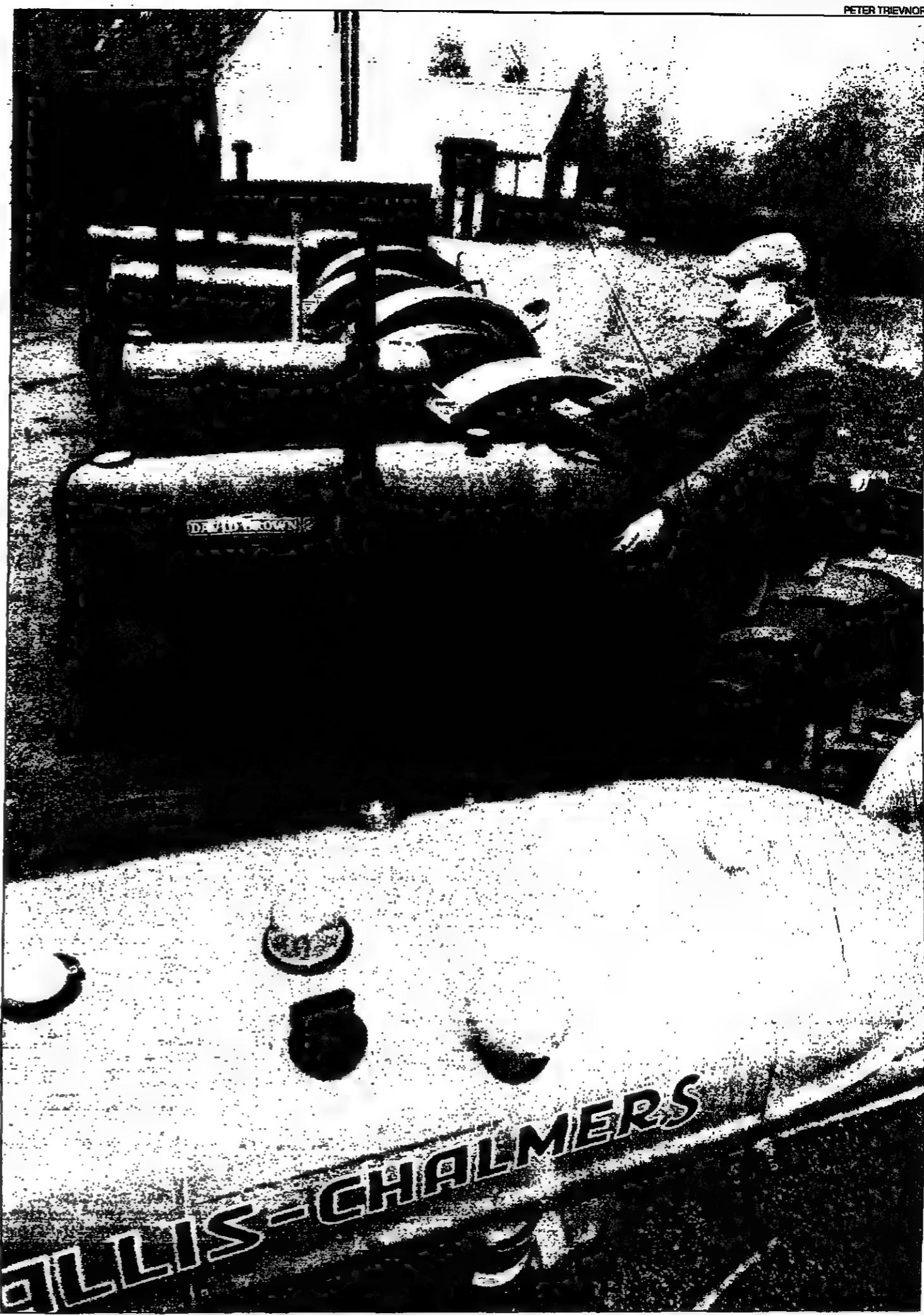
He has an Allis Chalmers B, a small tractor commonly used for rowcrop cultivation, but the U was a heavy plough tractor which could also be used for driving a threshing machine via its belt pulley.

There is an enormous choice of tractor types to collect. Many have truly evocative names, such as Platypus Bogmaster, Big Bull, Lam Bulldog and Yeoman of England: some sound plain and simple like the Nuffield Universal, while others have an elegant image: Imperial, Hornsby-Ackroyd, Ciroen-Kregesse, and the tongue-twisting combination, Hofsterr-Schrantz-Clayton-Shunieworth.

A few years ago, some shrewd dealing could see a handsome profit turned on a classic tractor. Now, says Martin, that's unlikely, although he believes the market is coming back: "But how nice to put your money into a handsome tractor which is also great fun to use — I drive mine in half a dozen shows a year — instead of tucking it away in a building society with a low interest rate. You shouldn't lose money on a tractor. They are basically simple pieces of machinery and spare parts are generally obtainable and not expensive."

Some have hidden talents, too: "As a child, I went out to the fields one day on a Case LA — the second tractor I drove — and the farmer I was working for brought along some fresh eggs. I thought we were going to eat them raw, but, at lunchtime, he closed the tractor's radiator blind, drove up and down the field to get the water boiling, stopped, produced a little wire basket, removed the radiator cap, and popped them inside. We had boiled eggs for lunch."

It was one of the nicer surprises of Martin Brown's young life.



"I want to collect all the tractors I drove between the age of eight and 21. I have a couple of duplicates, but I still need another four"

### TRACTOR FACTS

- THE world's original tractor is generally accepted to have been made by the Charter Gas Engine Company of Illinois in 1889. It had a single-cylinder petrol engine and metal wheels.
- THE first mass-produced tractor was the 1917 Fordson F.
- LARGE rear wheels give tractors maximum grip on rough and muddy ground, while the small front wheels provide a tight turning circle and lighter steering.
- BRITAIN's first commercially-successful tractor was the Hornsby-Ackroyd built in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

tractor was the Hornsby-Ackroyd built in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

• SALES of tractors in the UK last year totalled 20,079. The most successful manufacturers include Massey Ferguson, New Holland Ford/Fiat, John Deere and Case.

• A HARD-used tractor will typically clock up 1,500 hours a year and spend three years with its first owner.

• ONE OF the most powerful tractors on the UK market is the Versatile New Holland 9680, which costs £107,000.

## Some farmers really can tell people: 'My other tractor's a Lamborghini'

**H**elen Mound explains how one of the world's most glamorous cars began its life in a pile of junk metal

**S**umptuous curves and the huge burbling engine sing out the machine is coming from the stable of one of the most exotic of carmakers. Except this machine has truck-size wheels, one seat and usually pulls a plough — it is a Lamborghini tractor.

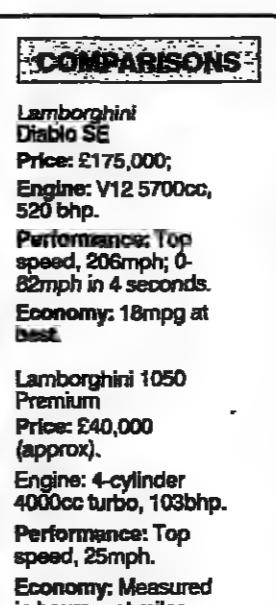
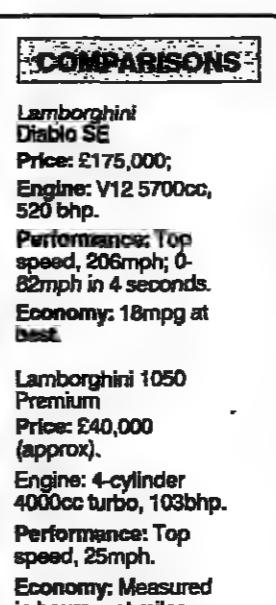
The company's charging bull badge is famous for being attached to the sloping bonnets of some of the world's quickest cars, monsters that batter thearmac at speeds up to 200mph.

But the Lamborghini dynasty started in the humble surroundings of Italian fields, turning the sod for generations of farmers. Myth has it that Ferruccio Lamborghini only started building sports cars after being snubbed by the man also busy building an Italian engineering dynasty, Enzo Ferrari. Lamborghini bought a Ferrari that was less than reliable, so the legend goes, and turned up at the Maranello factory, demanding to see Enzo himself. Ferrari refused, leaving Lamborghini, then a successful industrialist, fuming and vowing to take revenge by making even greater cars.

Lamborghini was born into a farming family and made a fortune with a company producing heating and cooling equipment, which allowed him to buy a racing team and compete in Formula 1. He had become sceptical about the future of tractors — eventually selling the business to the SAME Group in 1972 — and concentrated on his supercars, with exotic titles like Miura and Countach turning over £35,000-£75,000, yet the ari-



The 1050 Premium tractor and the Diablo SE share an Italian ancestor — and the tractors outsell the cars in Britain



The dashboard is a complicated place too, more helicopter cockpit than the farmer's little helper. Unlike the first basic models, that offered little more than the pulling power of a traditional ox, the modern versions boast "fly-by-wire" controls, and virtually everything, including gears, acceleration and towing equipment, can be operated from the armrest.

While the tractor business has its own established network of sales outlets, Lamborghini cars have been going through a period of change... and change for the better. Control of imports was taken over by Porsche Cars Great Britain a year ago, with hopes high of a revival in flagging fortunes.

The ploy worked, and the company has sold 19 Diablos at between £148,000 and £175,000. There are orders for eight more from the Diablo range — SE, VT or new Roadster, which goes on sale this spring — and 13 deposits have been placed for the LP140, one of Lamborghini's new cars planned for launch in the next two years, even though potential customers have no idea of styling, price or the car's name.

The success would put a smile on the face of the man who just wanted to make cars faster and better than Ferrari... but that remarkable tractor is probably also tickle the fancy of the man who built his first from scrap metal.

heads the world over, even if his company could never quite rival the sales achieved by Ferrari. While the latter found shelter under the wing of Fiat, Lamborghini cars has had many owners, including Chrysler and now Megatech, an Indonesian company.

The same Group's tractors continue to carry the Lamborghini name and badge and hold much prestige as value as the cars. Unexpectedly, perhaps, more Lamborghini tractors are around 200 a year — are sold in the UK annually than the cars. The price tag is certainly lower, with the tractors retailing at £35,000-£75,000, yet the ari-

cultural giants are every bit as luxurious as their car counterparts: even mid-range models get a stereo, air-conditioning, cruise control, air suspension seat and a massive engine controlled by 60 gears.

To re-unite the two disparate branches of the family, I drove a Lamborghini Diablo SE to North Walsham Tractors in Norfolk, one of the few Lamborghini tractor dealers in the UK. Peering out of the Diablo's near ground-level side windows, the tractor towered over me. I clambered out over the car's door sill and started confronting the differ-

ences between two vehicles so outwardly different in style, temperament and practicality.

Start with the Diablo because its statistics do the talking: it can top 206mph and sprint to 62mph in an alarming four seconds. The cabin is familiar but, because the SE is a special lightweight derivative (10 per cent lighter than the more luxurious VT model), it is bereft of goodies, such as electric windows or even a stereo. Probably pointless anyway, as a turn of the ignition unleashes an astonishing roar that sounds like a stampede from the hooves of the many horses straining under the bonnet.

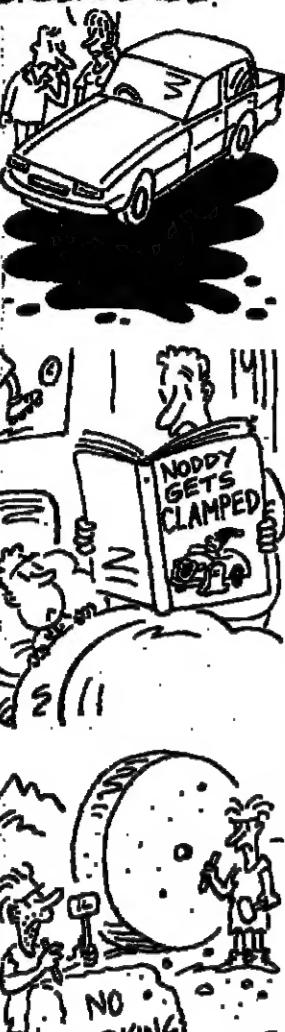
The towering Lamborghini 1050 Premium tractor, by comparison, is civilised. Outside, the cabin, the tractor's 4-cylinder turbocharged compression engine produces a deafening clatter; inside though, legislation ensures the driver does not get a blast more than 72 decibels. The crawl speed of 200 metres per hour. Just as well the engine's use is measured not in miles but in hours.



## CAR...TOONS



NEVER MIND THE A.A.  
I'VE JUST PHONED  
GREENPEACE!



Haldane

How well can you see in the dark? Sue Baker has a warning for the final weeks of winter

## A penalty that may be no light matter

**A**s wintry weather lingers and drivers make lavish use of lights to pierce through the gloom, it is all too easy for miscreant bulbs to escape detection.

Among the RAC's annual tally of breakdown calls are some 10,000 seeking assistance for some kind of lighting failure — mainly blown headlamp bulbs and brake or indicator light problems.

The worst month is December, but the peak period persists through to the end of February before tailing off into the spring and summer.

The AA reports a similar pattern, with a November/December peak and the high incidence of lighting problems continuing through to March before tailing off to lower levels from April through to September.

AA breakdown calls just for headlamp failure — excluding problems with other lights — were 1,031 in November and 1,000 in December. In January, they totalled 692 and a similar figure is expected for last month. But in July, based on last year's figure, they will be down to just over 200.

One common cause of headlamp failure is damaging resulting from stone chips and water ingress. AA spokesman Luke Bosdet says that patrols called to help with a failed headlight often find that the root of the problem is a "fish bowl lamp" — where a small hole in the front of the glass has let rain or snow penetrate and an inch or so of water is swishing about inside.

"We urge drivers to be extra careful about checking their lights, especially at this time of year. Very few car owners actually do it, but the sensible advice really is to check all the lights once a week," he added.

"It's not just a question of blown bulbs. See and be seen is the golden rule, and letting lights stay caked with dirt can reduce their effectiveness by up to 50 per cent."

Although it could be argued a dirty windscreen is more dangerous than a blown bulb,

an absent light is more likely to attract a brush with the law, and Michael Hannigan, the AA's senior legal adviser, cautions that the reaction of police to a car lighting fault may vary according to the time of day.

"If it is during daylight and the bulb failed during your journey, you would have a reasonable defence and would most likely be warned to have it repaired as soon as possible. But if it is at night, technically speaking you ought not to continue until it is repaired, and the police can issue a prohibition notice."

This effectively puts the car off the road until it is fixed. Alternatively, the police may

issue a vehicle defect notice, requiring that evidence of the car being in a satisfactory condition must be produced at a police station within 14 days.

Although less inconvenient than a prohibition, this may still prove a costly penalty. To obtain the necessary documentation, the car has to be inspected at an MOT test station, and most will only supply the evidence on carrying out a full test.

Finding a blown bulb during a journey can be an irksome handicap. Not only does it risk becoming the target of a blue flashing light, it may also mean a lengthy detour to find a replacement.

Few drivers bother to carry spare bulbs, and there is no legal requirement to do so — at least in Britain. But in Spain it is mandatory to carry spare bulbs, and in some other countries — including France and Germany — drivers are strongly advised to do so. Here it is simply a wise precaution.

But beware of do-it-yourself repairs to lights unless certain of installing the right bulb. An incorrect replacement bulb could have been the cause of the erratic behaviour of the lights witnessed on a Volvo in the rush hour.

The AA's diagnosis is that it

was probably either an earth problem or a short circuit, which could have been caused by a loose, dirty or corroded connection. But the RAC has an alternative suggestion. It could just as well have been a wrong replacement bulb in one of the lights, surmises spokesman Peter Brill.

"I had a very similar problem on my own car, and it turned out to be an incorrect bulb which was causing the aberration. When you have to change a bulb, it is vital to check that the type, size and strength is exactly the same as the one being replaced."

### USED CAR BRIEF

#### JAGUAR XJS

Launched in 1975 in the wake of an oil crisis, owners were not good for the thirsty XJS which had to fit the strictures of the E-type that had died the year before. The XJS was a success and they're still selling to each other. Two decades later the XJS is still going strong, but will be phased out when the X300 goes on sale this year. For two decades it has upheld Jaguar's reputation for affordable glamour cars. Range radically revamped in 1991.



Overall height 4.91m  
Ground clearance 5.0cm  
Wheelbase 2.92m  
Overall length 4.75m

PRICE £10,000-£15,000

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# What in the world does everyone want?

**Alan Cops on the results of Honda asking how to design a Civic of the sixth generation**

point for new models. The outcome was an interesting indication of preferences in different areas.

**W**hile Europeans demanded low noise levels and interior refinement, Japanese customers were more concerned about economy and Americans were very anxious to reduce tyre wear. The VTEC engine is electronically controlled to keep consumption to a minimum when driven gently and to provide more responsive performance for the driver in a hurry. This, allied to the excellent reputation Honda has for quality, wherever its cars are built, means the Civic name is likely to be with us for a long time yet.

This is one area where the results of that research become obvious: the driving position of the four-door model I tested was real living room relaxed, living up to its prom-

ise of "big car" comfort and offering excellent visibility. The instruments were not only good-looking but clearer to read, especially at night, than any other car I have recently driven. But I wonder whether the researchers asked anyone about the radio? The on/off switch was a real finger-breaker and the volume and wavelength were all controlled by the same square button, up and down for volume and side to side for wavelength. The possibilities for error were so great, I listened to tapes.

The exterior is longer than previous versions and the styling, although hardly exciting, has an elegance that was lacking in the past.

Where this car really scored, however, was in quiet economy. The VTEC engine is electronically controlled to keep consumption to a minimum when driven gently and to provide more responsive performance for the driver in a hurry. This, allied to the excellent reputation Honda has for quality, wherever its cars are built, means the Civic name is likely to be with us for a long time yet.

**What car do you drive now, and why?**

A Fiat 500, which I bought from a friend for £10. It was my pride and joy. It had no seat or floor on the passenger side. With the inclusion of some planks of wood, and an old school chair, my car was complete. Almost. Once it started I had to fuse some wires in the engine to ensure it would not stop. It kept me mobile for six months until it finally died. My father had been desperate to tow it away.

**What is your first car?**

On the driveway in my father's house. I used to spend hours going backwards and forwards until I plucked up enough courage to go on the road. In the process I reversed into a sewage pipe. I was just 17. It quickly put an end to my driving lessons. It was sometime before I tried again. I failed the first time — I couldn't remember where I'd parked my car.

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**What car do you drive now, and why?**

A Range Rover Vogue SE — my latest pride and joy. It is ideal for a family of three. I drive it to Mayfair, from my home in Swiss Cottage, which can take anything from five minutes to 45. Cars never argue with me. Obstacles such as traffic lights, zebra crossings, pedestrians and crazy drivers I can deal with. But I have yet to master the traffic wardens.

**What is your most hated car?**

The one which indicates after it has turned: the one car which uses two lanes instead of one; worst of all, the car in my space outside my house.

**What is your dream car?**

An old Bentley or a new Bentley Azure. It has everything: style, sophistication and elegance.

**What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?**

It's one of my favourite pastimes. It is the only place where you do not have to talk to anyone.

**What is your worst habit in the car?**

Smiling and waving at other drivers when they are annoyed with me.

**What is your most hated car?**

When they chat away and pose on their mobile phones oblivious to the traffic jam they are creating. If only they knew how naff they looked. They should buy a hands-free telephone.

**What is your worst habit in the car?**

Every day is an adventure, but it has to be the time I had a wet shave on the M6 in the passenger seat of a BMW. I was on my way to the wedding of a client, Sally Faber, the television presenter.

Steven Carey, hairdresser to the world's headline-makers, talks to Andrew Pierce

## STEERING COLUMN

**A** steady procession of some of the world's leading models, who are in Britain for London Fashion Week, have beaten a path to the door of Steven Carey Hair and Beauty Salon in Mayfair.

Carry, crisper to the rich and famous, has worked with the models' favourite photographers such as Bailey, Snowdon and Lichfield. He has styled the hair of Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino, William Hurt, Felicity Kendal, Sarah Miles, Joanna Lumley and Tom Jones. He twice styled the hair of the Duchess of York.

A regular on television and radio, Carey, 37, who has a team of 23 at his salon, started off aged 16 in a local barber's shop, Giacomo Piero, in Oldham. He charged £1.10 for a haircut; men now pay £39 for a cut and blow dry and women £59.

**How did you first learn to drive?**

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Carey and his Range Rover Vogue SE: "Cars never argue with me, but I've yet to master the traffic wardens"

# On the road to Mayfair via Oldham

and was running late. I shaved off one of my sideburns without realising it.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Six, I'm afraid. I once broke down in the fast lane on the M6. The police had to tow me off on to the hard shoulder. I should have rung the AA. I did not realise that my tax and insurance had run out two days earlier. But they did.

What do you listen to in the car?

Capital Radio and Kiss FM. Sometimes Michael Jackson and Motown. When I am stressed or tired, I will play Pavarotti or Carreras.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Abolish the privatised clamping and towing companies. Why should we pay more money when we already have road tax?

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Renault Clio. Nicole is cute, Papa is trendy, and Mama is the boss.

**HONDA CIVIC LS**

**Body style:** Four-door saloon.  
**Engine:** Four-cylinder, 16-valve 1493cc, giving 115ps at 6,300 rpm.  
**Transmission:** Five-speed manual.  
**Performance:** Max speed 119mph; 0-62mph in 10.4 seconds.

**Equipment:** Central locking, immobiliser, twin airbags, power steering, electric windows and sunroof.  
**Economy:** Urban cycle, 42.8mpg; constant 75mph, 45.6mpg.  
**Price:** £13,945.

## TVR Dealers

To advertise call  
**0171 782 7146**

## TVR Dealers

The TVR section is now running fortnightly.  
 Don't miss the next insertion on the 16th March.  
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## TOYOTA

94 Toyota Landcruiser 4x4 V8  
 4.2 litre, 200bhp, 4WD, 5 seats, £16,000.  
 0171 885 0041.

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**SUPRA TI**  
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MONTEREY 3.1 LWS 16V 4x4  
 200bhp, 4WD, 5 seats, £16,000.  
 Full leather interior, 200bhp, 4WD, 5 seats, £16,000.

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## VAUXHALL

**SUPRA TI**  
 (New Model)  
 Black with cream leather, only 10,000 miles.  
 Full Toyota History.

This is a unique model. Save a massive £1,000 from new.  
 Price £23,295.

## VAUXHALL

**SUPRA TI**  
 (New Model)  
 Black with cream leather, only 10,000 miles.  
 Full Toyota History.

This is a unique model. Save a massive £1,000 from new.  
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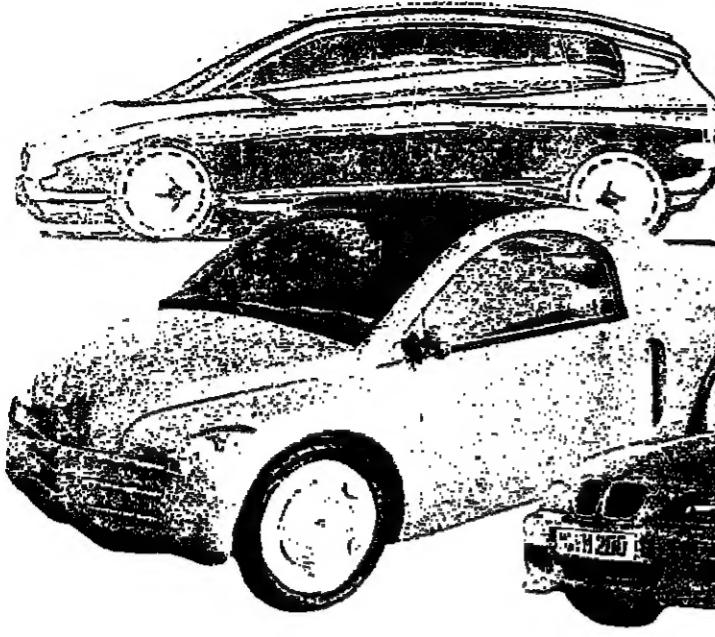
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## VAUXHALL

**SUPRA TI</b**

Alan Cops, Editor of *Car 96*, looks at some of the new models which will be unveiled in Geneva next week

# Coming to a dealer near you



**V**auxhall's late but impressive entry in the people carrier stakes is one of a host of models to make its debut next week at the Geneva Motor Show, traditionally the most important international launching pad for new cars.

The Sintra offers seating for up to eight people and space for their luggage on a platform just eight inches longer than the Vectra. It also promises car-like ride and handling and a wide range of safety features. But its biggest impact in what is already considered an over-crowded market is likely to rest with its record on economy. The use of lightweight materials such as aluminium and magnesium for many components, together with Vauxhall's multi-valve ECOTEC engines, which already make the Vectra the most economical car in its class, makes the US-built Sintra

a serious challenge to the Renault Espace, Ford Galaxy and Peugeot/Citroën/Fiat family of MPVs. An overall fuel consumption figure of 33.6 mpg is claimed for the 2.2-litre engined version, while the top-of-the-range 3-litre V6 promises a maximum speed of 126mph.

On the sporting side, Jaguar's XK8 faces tough competition for the limelight from BMW's new M Roadster and the Aston Martin V8 Coupé. The BMW is the big punchy version of the Z3 which has attracted so much hype from James Bond's patronage in *GoldenEye*. The M produces 300bhp from its 3.2-litre straight six and promises to match the Jaguar's acceleration with a 0-62mph figure of "under six seconds". Top speed is electronically limited to 155mph. Production dates and prices have yet to be announced.

Similar performance is promised for the Aston Martin V8 Coupé which uses a 350bhp 5.3-litre engine normally linked to a four-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission, although manual five- and six-speed versions will be available. Production has already started at the company's Newport Pagnell factory, where it takes craftsmen 15 weeks to hand-build each car. The price tag of £139,500 promises each one will be tailor-made for the customer.

Also in the ultra-luxury, tailor-made class are three new models from Rolls-Royce and Bentley, including the new top-of-the-range

Rolls-Royce Park Ward, said to offer unlimited scope for personalisation. Each customer will have the opportunity to design an individual interior and specify options for chauffeur-driven luxury, business use or family touring. These features include separate air conditioning controls for front and rear seats, remote control of in-car entertainment (which can include television/video) and illuminated picnic tables.

The two new Bentleys are both launched with heavy emphasis on the marque's sporting heritage. The Continental T is a more powerful version of the successful R

coupé with a reworked interior and improved brakes. The Turbo R Sport is specifically aimed at the European market with a satellite navigation system integrated into the interior design, which also includes starting use of carbon fibre where traditional Bentleys sported walnut.

Among the concept cars, Renault's retro-styled Fifie is likely to attract a lot of attention with its shape based on the 4CV of 1946 which became the first French car to have a million-plus production run. The two-seat coupé is built on the same chassis as the windscreenless Renault Sport Spider which

will be cutting a dash on circuits around Europe this summer in a special racing series. Its four-cylinder 1149cc engine is a unit designed for Renault's small production cars including the Clio.

There is also a concept from Nedcar, the Dutch-based company which makes cars for Volvo and Mitsubishi, the first vehicle made by the firm under its own name. The Access project (it stands for Aluminium-based Concept of a CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Saving Sub-compact car) is designed to display the company's advanced engineering capabilities in a small, economical family transport.

## EUROPE STARTS TO CUT THE JAPANESE LEAD

AFTER years of Japanese domination of just about every customer satisfaction survey, the Europeans are finally punching back.

A survey of 20,000 buyers this week showed a surge of approval for European-made cars for their style, driveability — and, remarkably, their reliability. European manufacturers wiped out their Japanese opposition in the league tables for executive and luxury cars, with Mercedes-Benz dominating. But the biggest surprises were for minis and compacts, where Japanese reliability has been legendary.

Fiat's Punto was best supermini, with the Renault Clio not far behind. The Nissan Micra

was third — but never fear, that model is made in Britain at Washington, Tyne and Wear. The Toyota Corolla and Mazda 323 were still highest scoring compacts, although Rover 400 showed strongly. But the Renault Laguna and Audi 80/90 took honours among medium models.

So what happened? Professor Dan Jones, who led the research, says: "The European industry has responded to the shock of Japanese success with a remarkably strong showing. The Europeans have simply raised their game and the results are starting to show through in surveys like this."

**TOP CARS**

Superminis: Fiat Punto, Renault Clio, Nissan Micra.

Compacts: Mazda 323, Toyota Corolla, Rover 400.

Medium: Renault Laguna, Audi 80/90, Toyota Corolla.

Executive: Mercedes E-class and C-class, BMW 5-series.

Luxury: Mercedes S-class, Rolls-Royce, Jaguar/Daimler.

4x4: Mitsubishi Shogun, Range Rover, Land Rover.

## DR DASH BOARD

### One bad tyre should not be blown up too much

**Q** Good heavens, Dr Dash board. That case this week in which a Dunlop tyre burst was horrifying. My car has Dunlops. What on earth should I do?

**A** For a start, don't panic. The chances of you having the same Dunlop SP4 radial as in that accident are pretty remote. That SP4 was phased out in 1988 and millions have since covered billions of miles without problems.

**Q** But the tyre ripped and caused the accident, simple as that. Surely that shouldn't happen?

**A** True. The judge decided there was a manufacturing fault, but there was also a moral in the story because the court heard that this tyre was in less than perfect condition: worn, under-inflated and had been punctured and badly repaired, according to Dunlop's lawyers.

**Q** Are you trying to tell me that tyres are so vulnerable they can cause accidents as bad as that?

**A** Actually, tyre failure of that magnitude is quite rare, according to the AA, accounting for only 0.3 per cent of crashes. What is not known is how much rotten tyres contribute to accidents. Cars with worn tyres are more likely to veer out of control, particularly in the wet or on tricky surfaces, while braking distances can be lengthened enormously.

**Q** But I can't be going backwards and forwards to Kwik-Fit worrying about my tyres. Is there any way to ensure my tyres are OK without undue fuss?

**A** Modern tyres are pretty robust, but, like water, oil and the petrol tank, they need regular checking. SP Tyres UK, which makes Dunlops, says check the pressures and ensure that there is the minimum tread of 1.6 millimetres, look for bulges in the sidewalls or cuts or nicks, and make sure you have a good spare.

**Q** SP should talk if they own the Dunlop name. They have been in court over this whole issue.

**A** Actually, they have not. This case dates back to the days when Dunlop, the tyre-maker started by John Boyd Dunlop at the birth of the motor industry, was struggling. In 1985, the company was split up, with Sumitomo of Japan buying the Dunlop brand name and factory in Birmingham to form SP Tyres UK. The BTR conglomerate picked up Dunlop Ltd, which owned some other interests. But the litigation related to tyres made originally by Dunlop Ltd — and BTR was in the firing line from then on. Complicated, but that's modern multi-national business for you.



## THE NEW MAZDA 323

**(mazda) > (the rest)**

**Right**  
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**Wrong**  
0345 48 48 23

**MAZDA**

50% من الأصل